

The Osprey

Newsletter of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society



Cuba Yellow-headed Warbler
photo by George Jett

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Spring 2011**

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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

BOOKS FOR SILENT AUCTION AT ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 5

The residue of bird books in the collection of SMAS member, Marcia Nelson, was donated to SMAS last month. George Jett picked them up and has made a preliminary list recommending those to be placed in the silent auction at the annual meeting and others to be donated for a small contribution to the bookstore. Marcia and her companion traveled widely in earlier years and had an extensive library. Now living in assisted living, it is Marcia's wish that those books not taken by the family be donated to SMAS. This is an opportunity to augment your library, maybe get some out-of-print books, and help the SMAS treasury, while enjoying the food and fellowship of the day. There will also be other items for silent auction.

The Collection:

The collection includes a number of paperback **Bent Natural History guides**. If you are not aware of the Bent series, it is a detailed natural history of the birds by groups – shorebirds, songbirds, hawks, etc. It is not a complete collection. About 20 of the 23 volumes are included. All are Dover Press reprints. There are also general reference books and a number of specific regional field guides and checklists.

Stuff the **Bookstore** might be able to sell at a reduced rate, but will be available for auction June 5

- The Pleasures of Watching Birds by Oberman – *
- Dial B for Birder by Oberman j- *
- Field List of the Birds of Maryland, 1996 (Yellowbook) – *
- Western Birds – Peterson Field Guide, 3rd Edition – *
- America's 100 Most Wanted Birds by Mlodinow and O'Brien (Michael), 1996 – *
- Checklist of Birds of Everglades N.P. (2 copies) – *
- Bird Finding in Frederick County, Maryland by Stauffer Miller – *

Stuff to **auction** off at the annual meeting.

- The A O U Checklist of North American Birds, 1957. @
- A Guide to the Birds of Alaska by Armstrong – maybe first edition. A little worn or I would add it to the bookstore list. @
- Dozen Birding Hot Spots by Peterson – @
- Birds of Guatemala by Hugh Land – @ Collectors might want this.
- The Birds of Tikal by Smithe, 1966 – @ Collectors might want this.
- A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas by Peterson, 2nd edition – @.
- Birds of Big Bend N. P., 1973 – @
- Sand Dunes and Salt Marshes by Townsend, 1918 – @
- Birders Guide to Coastal North Carolina by Fussell, 1994 – @

continued➔

Give away candidates or small donation. The where to find birds by region are all old editions, some are out of print, but the usefulness is questionable. Someone might just be looking for one of these.

ABA Supplement to Birding ; – Bird finding – #
ABA - Birds of Northern California, 1966 – #
ABA - A Birders Guide to Southeastern Arizona, 1977 – #
ABA - A Birders Guide to Southern California, 1985 – #
ABA - A Birders Guide to the Texas Coast, 1984 – #
ABA - A Birders Guide to Florida, 1981 – #
ABA Checklist of the U.S. Birds, 1990 – #
Finding Birds in Mexico by Edwards; 1885 – #
Birds in Southeastern Arizona by Davis & Russell, 2nd Edition - 1982 – #
Virginia Birdlife an Annotated Checklist, June 1987 – #
Annotated Checklist of the birds of Arizona, Monson & Phillips, 1980 – #
The List of West Virginia Birds by George Hall, 1971 – #
A Guide to Bird Finding in Washington State, 1986 – #
Birding in Seattle and King County by Hunn, 1982 autographed – #
A Birding Guide to South Carolina Lowcountry – #
Where Birds Live in the Middle Atlantic States, 1951 – #
Life in the Shifting Dunes, 1960 – #
Birds by Dumpster Highway by Frisch. #
Birds of the Blue Ridge Mountains, by Simpson, 1992 – #
Birding Babylon by Trend; 2006 (about a soldier's journal from Iraq) – #
Finding Birds in the National Capital Area by Claudia Wilds. Long out of date but still useful. The copy is the first edition – #
The Birds of California by Small, 1974 – #
The Beak of the Finch, A Story of Evolution in our Time – a novel type book, not a field guide. #
Notes on the Birds of the Great Smoky Mountain N. P. – #.
Mammals of Indiana; 1982 – #

TAILGATE BIRD COUNT - SPRING 2011

The Tailgate Bird Count was a great success, despite the low turn-out. Only two teams participated but altogether they raised almost \$800 for SMAS. Not bad!

The Mattawoman Creek Gazers team consisted of team leader Lynne Wheeler and team members Carol Ghebelian and Gwen Brewer. Their Tailgate party was held Saturday, April 30 at the Mattingly Park Gazebo, overlooking the Mattawoman Creek in Indian Head, from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The team tallied 54 species, and raised a great total of \$586.00. Team leader Lynne reported "It was an interesting day. The warblers did not appear as hoped, and there were not as many waterfowl as I predicted. It took most of the day before we got a Ring-billed Gull! But we did enjoy all day long a busy pair of Orchard Orioles, a vociferous Yellow Warbler, an agitated Brown Thrasher, multiple Osprey, numerous Red-winged Blackbirds and the usual swallow species. We were pleased to have some fishermen come over and friends who dropped by to learn about birding and donate to our event. We had a beautiful day, and enjoyed ourselves immensely. As team leader I was so fortunate to have the best team members, Carol and Gwen, as I learn from them at every outing".

Team Strix consisted of team leader, and the only member, Chris Ordiway. His count was held on Sunday, May 1 from midnight until 8pm in his yard in Accokeek and tallied a whopping 63 species. He reports, "50 species or more isn't

unusual if I walk the farm where I live (Hard Bargain Farm) but I thought 30-40 species would be a realistic target if I had to stay in a 20 foot circle in my yard. I was amazed by the end of the day at how well I had done. I'm already looking forward to the next Tailgate Bird Count in the Fall". Team Strix raised \$200 from friends and coworkers. With the magic of Wi-Fi Chris was also able to post to a blog during his event, it can still be seen here:

<http://2hyn.zapd.co> (There is no "m" at the end).

At a recent board meeting the SMAS Board of Directors agreed that the Tailgate Bird Count would be repeated in the Fall of 2011. Watch for more information in the next issue of the Osprey, after the summer break. And "Thank You!" to the members of both teams for helping to raise funds for the Southern Maryland Audubon Society.



Brown Thrasher
photo by Bill Hubick

STOP THE NRA'S LEAD POISONING LEGISLATION

http://action.biologicaldiversity.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=6722

The Center for Biological Diversity has organized 120 allied groups representing birders, hunters, scientists, American Indians and public employees that are calling for a ban on lead in ammunition and fishing tackle. The Center recently teamed up with a hunting organization to sue the EPA under the Toxic Substances Control Act to force the agency to take action to prevent further lead poisonings.

Now, the NRA has pushed the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus to introduce legislation aimed at eviscerating the Toxic Substances Control Act and preventing the EPA from regulating toxic lead exposure to wildlife. Help us stop the cruel and misguided "Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Sports Protection Act."

There is simply no reason to continue to use toxic lead materials for hunting or fishing. Effective, nontoxic bullets, shot and fishing weights are widely available and in many cases, comparable in price to lead. Yet the well-heeled NRA gun lobby argues that removing toxic materials from the sporting marketplace is "extreme" and somehow anti-hunting or fishing. What's so "extreme" about insisting that bald eagles not starve to death because their digestive system has been shut down by lead poisoning?

Help us stop the NRA's toxic legislation by contacting your senators today and urging them to oppose this harmful bill. Sample Letter:

Dear Senator,

I urge you to oppose the misguided "Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Sports Protection Act of 2011." This bill promoted by extremist gun groups would ensure the continued lead poisoning of wildlife such as bald eagles, condors, loons and swans. The bill would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing federal regulations intended to protect wildlife and people from preventable lead poisoning.

Although environmental lead poisoning has been reduced by removing lead from paint and gasoline, each year tens of thousands of tons of lead are shot into the environment and a half million lead fishing sinkers are lost or abandoned in aquatic environments. When this lead enters the food chain the effect on wildlife is staggering. Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, loons, cranes, California Condors, herons and doves die incredibly painful lead-poisoning deaths. Wolves, bears and panthers are also poisoned.

There is simply no reason to continue to use toxic lead materials for hunting or fishing anymore. Effective, nontoxic bullets, shot and fishing weights are widely available and in many cases, comparable in price to lead.

The bill intends to strip EPA's authority to regulate toxic

lead in ammunition and fishing gear under the Toxic Substances Control Act. This legislation shows callous disregard for the health of 10 million hunters, their families and low-income beneficiaries of venison donations who are at continued risk of lead poisoning. It also ignores the mountain of scientific evidence that lead ammunition and fishing tackle are the major sources of lead poisoning exposure for more than 75 wildlife species.

Please oppose this bill and allow the EPA to keep the regulatory tools to prevent the annual deaths of millions of wild birds and wildlife. Thank you.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD

The following are highlights from the April 27, 2011 board meeting held at the Charlotte Hall Library.

The board meeting concentrated on the following:

- Discussion regarding the Tailgate Bird Count fund raiser scheduled for April 29. The board has decided to have the fund raiser again the weekend of October 1 and 2. This time frame will coordinate with other national bird counts. The need for added promotion of the event was discussed. Can anyone out there help us with a graphic design for our new fund raising initiative? If you can please e-mail our SMAS Secretary, Lynne Wheeler at fidsruschic@aol.com. Thanks!
- The board discussed the SMAS Conservation Award recipient which will be presented at the annual meeting in June.
- Final stages are being reached in the scheduling and planning for the 2011-2012 Program Meetings. We are very excited about our speakers for next year.
- SMAS will assist the College of Southern Maryland in seeking someone to teach a Birding class for their adult education program. Birding educators(s) have already expressed interest and SMAS will proceed in assisting CSM.
- SMAS 40 Year Anniversary!! Sunday, June 5 is the SMAS Annual Picnic. The board discussed plans for this momentous occasion which will be recognized at the Annual Picnic. Please come to The Elms Environmental Center, St. Mary's County, and join us for this event. A potluck lunch, elections, presentation of award recipients, and a bird walk will occur starting at 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- We are still in need for nominees to the board for the upcoming 2011-2012 calendar. The board has openings for Directors and Officers (Vice-President and/or Secretary). Please let us know if you are interested in becoming a more active participant in SMAS by coming to our upcoming board meeting.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25th at the Leonardtown Library at 7 p.m.

Go Birding!

MORE FINDINGS ON LEAD AND CONDORS

There are approximately 200 California Condors in the wild today (California 97, Arizona 73 and Baja California 20), and some of these belong to “experimental populations.” Despite serious management efforts to reduce California Condors to the risk of lead exposure, they continue to be accidentally poisoned on a regular basis.

In March, findings presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Toxicology held in Washington DC, confirmed the fact that lead continues to be a primary factor limiting the survival of California Condors in the wild. In a cooperative study conducted by scientists from the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC), the University of Wyoming, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service, it was concluded that ammunition was the most plausible source of this lead exposure.

This study examined 70 blood samples collected from 49 free-flying condors in California. The blood analysis was compared to an examination of 71 lead-based ammunition samples. Employing a technique called lead isotopic composition analysis, the researchers identified the chemical fingerprint of the lead found in condor blood and concluded that about 90 percent of free-flying condors have been exposed to lead-based ammunition.

“For over 100 years we have known that condors can be poisoned when they eat carcasses shot with lead bullets, although facets of the hunting lobby remain unconvinced,” said Myra Finkelstein of USCS. “Our findings help refute some of their claims.”

Not only did the lead in condor blood match ammunition samples, the study also revealed that toxic lead has a larger impact than previously thought. For example, even at low levels, lead inhibits an important enzyme responsible for making red blood cells in condors. Even in California Condors with low lead levels in their blood, the enzyme’s activity was inhibited by 60 percent.

Large-game carcasses, such as mortally wounded deer and elk which evade hunters to die in the wild, and gut-piles left when an animal is cleaned in the field (often with splayed tiny lead particles deposited when a bullet hits the animal) can leave lead behind. These bullets or tiny lead fragments may then be consumed by the condors.

Other findings also point to a persistent lead problem for condors. For example, in 2009 almost half of the condors monitored at one California release site (i.e., Pinnacles National Monument) received clinical treatment for lead poisoning.

Hopefully, these findings may encourage broader concern and stronger compliance with a fairly recent lead-bullet ban in a broad zone across California within areas covering the condor’s historic range. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the Ridley-Tree Condor Preservation Act (AB 821) into law in October, 2007. The bill went into effect on 1 July

2008, banning the use of lead bullets within condor territory, however it seems to be poorly enforced, reportedly due to a lack of funding. See the November 2007 E-bulletin for more details on AB 821:

www.refugenet.org/birding/novSBC07.html#TOC12

To find a recent story on the current condor-and-lead situation, see:

www.gtweekly.com/santa-cruz-news/santa-cruz-environmental-news/2323-will-hunters-have-to-bite-the-bullet.html

You can access past E-bulletins on the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) website:

www.refugenet.org/birding/birding5.html

If you have any friends or co-workers who want to get onto the monthly E-bulletin mailing list, have them contact either:

Wayne R. Petersen
718/259-2178

wpetersen@massaudubon.org

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410/992-9736

paul.baicich@verizon.net

CELEBRATE OUR 40TH YEAR WITH US AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

This is the 40th year since the founding of Southern Maryland Audubon Society in 1971. To celebrate that anniversary, we are planning some special activities at the Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 5 at the Elms Environmental Education Center, at the end of St James Church Road, opposite Mattapany Road off Route 235 near Dameron, St. Mary’s County.

The meeting will begin at 1:30 PM with the traditional potluck lunch. Then, in addition to the Host’s Briefing and our Business Meeting when we elect officers for the coming activity year, we will have the following activities:

- We’ll share a special cake celebrating our 40th year.
- Mike Callahan of the Raptor Conservation Committee will present appreciation awards to persons who have helped to promote the protection of the Barn Owl, Osprey, and American Kestrel in Southern Maryland.
- We will announce the Conservationist of the Year and present the award, which goes to an outstanding leader in conservation in Southern Maryland.
- Old-timers are invited to reminisce about the early days of our society.
- We’ll have a silent auction of donated books and merchandise to raise money for the society’s various education and conservation projects.
- We’ll have bird walks in a beautiful area of forests, fields, ponds, and Chesapeake Bay shoreline.

Bring your family, friends, and a favorite food dish and join us for the celebration!

EBIRD AND THE ANNUAL STATE OF THE BIRDS REPORT

Yesterday the annual State of the Birds Report was released, which focused on the importance of public lands in bird conservation. eBird data was the basis for much of the analysis in the report, and the utility of eBird for this report is the direct result of all your hard work.

You can read and download the entire report including the methods at the link below:

<http://www.stateofthebirds.org/>

Also in the report was the following "Thank You to eBird Volunteers"

Our understanding of bird distribution has greatly improved thanks to the thousands of bird watchers who have contributed observations to eBird (www.eBird.org). This effort is especially important for tracking seasonal and fine-scale changes in bird distribution, which is not possible with other bird-monitoring programs. However, even this massive observation network provides only imperfect information for assessing the year-round status of birds on many remote public lands across the U.S., including Alaska, Hawaii, and island territories. We urge birders to submit more observations to eBird from public refuges, parks, forests, and wilderness areas. We also urge agencies to support the submission of current and historical records to eBird and other data archives.

From everyone at Team eBird, thanks for all your efforts!

Chris Wood
eBird & Neotropical Birds Project Leader
Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York
<http://ebird.org>
<http://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu>



Galearis spectabilis (Showy Orchis)
photo by Tyler Bell

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED



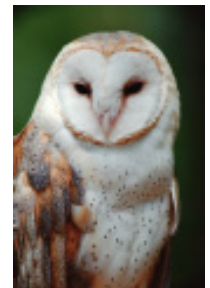
Southern Maryland Audubon Society sponsors the banding of nestling birds of prey, or raptors, with serially numbered aluminum bands in cooperation with the Bird Banding Laboratory of the U. S. Department of the Interior, as part of our bird research and conservation activities in Southern Maryland. Limited numbers of Osprey and Barn Owl nestlings become available each year for adoption. The gift of \$10 for an Osprey adoption, or of \$25 for a Barn Owl adoption, contributes to a special fund for the support of raptor research and raptor conservation projects. The foster parent receives:

- A certificate of adoption with the number of the U. S. Department of the Interior band, and the location and date of the banding.
- Information on the ecology and migration patterns of the species, photo of a fledgling, and any other information on whereabouts or fate of the bird that may be available.

Interested?

Here's how to become a foster parent of an Osprey or a Barn Owl. Send \$10.00 for each Osprey, \$25 for each Barn Owl, or \$35 for each American Kestrel to:

Melissa Boyle
10144 Point Lookout Road
Scotland, MD 20687



ADOPT A RAPTOR

Name: _____

Address: _____

I wish to adopt (check one):

_____ (# of) Osprey, \$10.00 each

_____ (# of) Barn Owl, \$25.00 each

_____ (# of) American Kestrel, \$35.00 each

Amount Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to:
Southern Maryland Audubon Society

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 14 – Saturday - All Day

COUNTY MAY COUNTS

Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's Counties
Help needed from all: backyard birders, beginners, team leaders. This data helps save our birds! County coordinators are as follows:

Calvert: Sue Hamilton
(410-586-1494, seal10n2002@yahoo.com)

Charles: Gwen Brewer
(301-843-3524, glbrewer@comcast.net)

Prince George's: Fred Fallon
(301-249-1518, fwfallon@earthlink.net)

St. Mary's: Patty Craig
(301-872-5670), eyrie@hughes.net)

May 21 – Saturday – 8 AM - noon

Smallwood State Park, Charles County – Field Trip

Youths especially welcome!

2750 Sweden Point Rd, Marbury, MD 20658

“LATE MIGRANTS”

Leaders: Jean Artes and Lynne Wheeler (301-743-3236, fidsruschic@aol.com) Visit one of our favorite parks. Especially good for forest interior birds but also Red-headed Woodpecker, late waterfowl, shorebirds, and late neotropical migrants. From Rt. 225 at Mason Springs, go south on Rt. 224 (Chicamuxen Rd) about 3 miles to park entrance on right. Facilities, \$3 per vehicle fee. RSVP required.

May 28 – Saturday – 8 AM - noon

Cove Point Marsh, Calvert County – Field Trip

“SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS”

Leader: Bob Boxwell (443-404-5549, bobboxwell@hotmail.com) Cove Point beach and marsh were a unique habitat on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. A Living Shoreline project is attempting to restore the fresh water marsh after a massive breach and salt water incursion. We are targeting sparrows and other marsh inhabitants and migrants. This is a restricted area and we are limited to ten guests. Reservations are required at least one week prior to the trip.

JUNE 5 – SUNDAY – 1:30 p.m.

The Elms Environmental Education Center,

St. Mary's County

49300 St. James Church Road, Dameron, MD 20628

ANNUAL MEETING

Potluck Lunch	1:30-3:00
Host's Briefing	3:00-3:30
Business Meeting/Elections	3:30-4:00
Bird Walk	4:00-5:00

Bring your family, friends, and a favorite food dish and join us at this wonderful environmental center along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Directions: From the North: Take Rt. 235 south, turn left on St. James Church Rd. (2 miles beyond Spring Ridge Middle School) and continue straight until St. James Church Rd ends.

June 29 – WEDNESDAY – 1:00 p.m. - ??

Osprey Banding Field Trip, Prince George's & Anne Arundel County – Field Trip

Leader: Greg Kearns

This is a great opportunity to see fledgling Ospreys, up close and personal, with Naturalist Greg Kearns, who has been banding these birds on the Patuxent for more than 25 years!

We will meet at Patuxent River Park (directions provided after registration) by 1p.m. We will be going out on a boat on the Patuxent to help with banding osprey chicks. Bring a lunch, water, camera, hat, and sunscreen.

Contact Melissa Boyle (melissaboyle3@gmail.com) to sign up. Spaces are limited. Reservations taken on a first come, first-served basis. Ages 12-Adult. \$6/person fee, cash payable day of trip.

Squatters' Right

by Jane Klemmer

Who grants the long-term lease
For Patuxent pilings?
Ospreys know. They're back!

Osprey
photo by George Jett



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The deadline for the Osprey is the fifth of each month. Please send all short articles, reports, unique sightings, conservation updates, calendar items, etc. to the above address.

Southern Maryland Audubon Society
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