

**2010 – 2011
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SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 181, Bryans Road, Maryland 20616

Southern Maryland Audubon Society



2010–2011 Program

US POSTAGE
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Leonardtown, MD
20650

SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETINGS 2010-2011

SEPTEMBER 1- WEDNESDAY-7:30 p.m.

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary's County
37600 New Market Road (Rt. 6 at Rt. 5), Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
"Wildlife Rehabilitation in Southern Maryland"
LYNN ANDERSON, Director of Feathers and Friends Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Come and meet licensed rehabilitator Lynn Anderson and learn about this new center, located in Brandywine, dedicated to the care and treatment of injured and orphaned wildlife. With the new center they have been able to expand their services and recruit volunteers. Learn what a day in the life of a wildlife rehabilitator is like, how to become a licensed rehabber, and how to help.

OCTOBER 6-WEDNESDAY-7:30 p.m.

Calvert County Library-Fairview Branch
8120 Southern Maryland Boulevard, Owings, MD 20736
"Marylanders Grow Oysters"
BILL BARGER, DNR Program Volunteer"

Marylanders Grow Oysters" is a volunteer program where waterfront property owners are growing millions of young oysters in cages suspended from private piers. Their goal is to protect young oysters during their vulnerable first year of life, so they may be planted on local sanctuaries where the oysters enrich the ecosystem and our oyster population. Bill will explain this new State of Maryland initiative and tell us about the newly established oyster sanctuaries in Southern Maryland.

NOVEMBER 3 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Spring Dell Center, Charles County
6040 Radio Station Road, La Plata, MD 20646
"Rhapsody in Blue"

MIDDLETON EVAN, Photographer

Renowned Maryland Photographer Middleton Evans has been photographing Maryland scenery and people for over twenty years. In 1998 he began an extraordinary 10-day Florida bird marathon that served as the genesis of *Rhapsody in Blue*, an epic five-year adventure including 33 trips all over North America in search of miraculous encounters with native waterbirds. This talk is based on the wonderful photographs and stories included in his book.

DECEMBER 1 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary's County
37600 New Market Road (Rt. 6 at Rt. 5), Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
Local Photographers Night and Holiday Gift Sale

Come see what others have photographed on trips, backyards, and local birding hot spots and feel free to bring your own photos to show. Contact Bob Lukinic by November 15 at 301-283-6317 or rlukinic@peoplepc.com to coordinate electronic viewing equipment. We are also highlighting our SMAS book and gift store to help with your hard to find holiday gift shopping. Gift wrapping included!

JANUARY 5 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center, Calvert County
Gray's Road off Sixes Road (Rt. 506), Prince Frederick, MD
Call 410-535-5327 for additional information or visit www.calvertparks.org

"Maryland Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project (MARA)"
SCOTT A. SMITH, Wildlife Diversity Ecologist,
MD DNR-Wildlife & Heritage Service

DNR and the Maryland Natural History Society are partnering on a 5-yr effort to catalogue and map all the reptiles and amphibians of the state. MARA is a volunteer-based project that will increase our understanding for these species. Come learn about this project and some of the unique herp species found in southern MD such as the state endangered rainbow snake and eastern narrow-mouthed toad. We are still recruiting volunteers, so if you have a thirst to learn, regardless of your level of knowledge, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

FEBRUARY 2 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Hughesville Fire Dept, Charles County
15245 Prince Frederick Road, Hughesville, MD 20637
2010 Audubon Scholarship Winners Presentation
MICHELLE DAUBON and DIANA GUYRAS

SMAS 2010 Scholarship winners Michelle Daubon of CHESPAX, Calvert County and Diana Guyras of T.C. Martin Elementary School, Charles County will present results from their learning adventure last summer at the Audubon Ornithology Camp at Hog Island, Maine. Scholarship winners enjoy a week filled with fun and adventure, island hopping off the coast of Maine on Muscongus Bay. Come learn about seabirds and get acquainted with this educational scholarship that SMAS offers to our local teachers, an initiative we are most proud of!

MARCH 2 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Leonardtown Library, St. Mary's County
23250 Hollywood Road (Rt. 245), Leonardtown, MD 20650
"Osprey of Southern Maryland"

GREG KEARNS, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Patuxent River Park

Greg has been observing and banding osprey on the Patuxent River for over 20 years and has witnessed population changes and trends since he started working at the Patuxent River Park at Jug Bay in the late 1970's. You will be on the edge of your seat as Greg talks about this species of raptor that is on our SMAS logo and is part of our Adopt-a Raptor program.

APRIL 6 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Faith United Methodist Church, Prince George's County
15769 Livingston Road, Accokeek, MD 20607

"Landscaping with Native Plants- Enhancing Biodiversity"
ANN BODLING, Hard Bargain Farm Naturalist

Ann has been involved in conservation and horticultural pursuits all of her adult life. Come and hear a discussion of why native plants matter, advantages of landscaping with natives, and how to get started planting natives in your backyard. The program will include a visual tour of mid-Atlantic native plants and native plant gardens.

May 4 – WEDNESDAY - 7:30 p.m.

La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, Charles County
911 Washington Avenue, La Plata, MD 20646

"Birds, Bats and Other Treats of Trinidad"

GWEN BREWER and GEORGE JETT, Southern Maryland Audubon Society Members

Explore the biodiversity of Trinidad through beautiful photographs and discussion from a 10-day visit to this tropical island. The speakers traveled with Bat Conservation International founder Dr. Merlin Tuttle and utilized the world famous Asa Wright Nature Center as their base. With the help of mammal expert and author Fiona Reid, ably assisted by local guide Jeffrey Gomes, many delights were seen and much was learned about the natural history of Trinidad. The list of birds, bats, and other animal and plant groups is astounding for such a small place. Come join us for a snapshot of what this lovely and safe island has to offer.

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 mile beyond Spring Ridge Middle School) and continue straight until St. James Church Rd ends.

SMAS FIELD TRIPS 2010-2011

September - 18– Saturday- 8 AM – 2 PM

Southern Prince George's County Field Trip

"EARLY FALL MIGRANT BIRDS"

Leader: Fred Shaffer (410-721-1744, glaucousgull@verizon.net).

Visit a variety of habitats along the Patuxent River in Southern Prince George's County. We will check for shorebirds, gulls, terns and grassland birds along the Patuxent, and perhaps early sparrows at Milltown Landing and Merkle. We may visit a variety of other locations along the river depending upon conditions. Call the leader for reservations or additional information at 410-721-1744. From Rt. 4 and 301, go south on 301, left onto Croom Station Rd., left on Croom Rd. then left on Mt. Calvert Rd. Meet in the parking lot near the boat ramp on the Patuxent River. RSVP required.

September 25– Saturday- 8 AM - noon

Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert County

9500 H.G. Trueman Rd. Lusby, MD 20657

"FALL MIGRATION"

Leader: Tyler Bell (301-862-4623, jtlyerbell@yahoo.com).

Come and enjoy what should be neotropical migrants near their peak. Previous walks have revealed lots of warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and various songbirds. This 3 mile round trip has good trails through wooded habitat and along the creek. Take Rt. 2/4 south of Prince Frederick for approx. 14 miles. Follow signs to the park. Meet leader in parking lot. Facilities and fee. RSVP required.

October 9 – Saturday- 8 AM - noon

Caledon Natural Area, King George, VA

11617 Caledon Rd. King George, VA 22485

"FALL MIGRANTS AND RESIDENT BIRDS"

Leader: Mike Callahan (301-259-2162, raptorsrule@juno.com).

The Caledon Natural Area is a Virginia State Park along the Potomac River on the opposite shore from Nanjemoy, MD. The park entails meadow and river bottom habitat, known for Bald Eagles (at least 15 in one spot!) and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Meet at the MD 301 visitor center just north of the Harry Nice Bridge. Expect a toll southbound for bridge (\$3). Contact leader for more info. Limited to 12 participants. RSVP required.

October 16 – Saturday- 8 AM – noon *Youths especially welcome!*

Chapman State Park, Mt. Aventine, Charles County

3452 Ferry Place, Indian Head, MD 20640

"LAND BIRDS, EARLY WATERFOWL"

Leader: Heather Burk (870-562-1004, hilburk2000@yahoo.com).

This newly preserved historic and environmentally rich state park was dedicated as an Audubon Important Bird Area in 2009. Come and enjoy its forest, fields and extensive marsh along the Potomac River, a wonderful habitat for hawks, sparrows, woodpeckers, and early waterfowl. The historic home (not open to the public) dates from 1840. Take Rt. 210 to Chapman's Landing Road between Bryans Road and Indian Head. Meet at park gate. RSVP required.

November 14 – Sunday- 8 AM - noon

Myrtle Grove WMA, Charles County *Youths especially welcome!*

5625 Myrtle Grove Rd. La Plata, MD 20646

"BIRDING FOR ALL LEVELS"

Leader: Fred Burggraf (301-934-8042, fburggraf@aol.com). Diverse habitat for hawks, sparrows, woodpeckers, and early waterfowl. Great for beginning birders! From Rt. 301 in La Plata, take Rt. 225 west about 4.5 miles to the WMA on the right. From Rt. 210 take Rt. 225 east about 4 miles to the WMA. Follow the dirt road to the end (about a mile) and meet in the parking lot near the lake. RSVP required

November 20 – Saturday – 8 AM - noon

Mattawoman Natural Environmental Area Wildlands, Charles County

"EARLY WATERFOWL ON THE GEORGE WILMOT TRAIL"

Leader: Gwen Brewer (301-843-3524, glbrewer@comcast.net). Come search for migrating waterfowl on the Mattawoman Creek, and songbirds along the trail in this prime natural area. As many as 5000 individuals and 13 species of waterfowl have been present, including Eurasian Wigeon. Located on Rt. 224 (Chicamuxen Rd) off Rt. 225, between La Plata & Indian Head. Meet in lower (2d) parking lot at Lackey High School (left side of Rt. 224). Bring a spotting scope if you have one and be prepared for a moderate level walk. No facilities and no fees. This is a joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. RSVP required.

December 12 – Sunday- 8 AM - noon

King's Landing Park, Calvert County

"EARLY WINTER BIRDS"

Leader: Tom Harten (301-780-6196, tomharten@verizon.net)

King's Landing Park, located in Huntingtown, offers a variety of habitats attractive to wintering birds including forest, open fields, freshwater wetlands and the Patuxent River. We'll meet next to the CHESPAX office near the main parking lot of the park. King's Landing is located 5 miles north of Prince Frederick following Route 4. Turn left onto Old Town Rd. (MD 524). Turn left at Bowen's Grocery Store and continue straight for about 3 miles to park entrance. RSVP required.

December 14 - January 5

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

See other side for details on our Southern Maryland Christmas Bird Counts. Also check *The Osprey* or go to the website <http://www.somdaudubon.org/> for additional information.

January 1 – Saturday - 8 AM - 2 PM

St. Mary's Winter Chase, St. Mary's County

"START YOUR YEAR OFF BIRDING"

Leader: Marty Cribb (301-872-9464, pauraque@tqci.net).

Two-thirds day. Search for winter specialties in a very productive area. Expect stops at Beauvue, Point Lookout, St. George's Island, and other hotspots. Meet at entrance to Point Lookout State Park on Rt. 5. Be prepared for cold and dress warmly. Bring scopes if you have them. Facilities along the way, but no fee, except Point Lookout. RSVP required

January 23 – Sunday – 10 AM – 2 PM

NOTE: NEW LATER START TIME

Beauvue Ponds, St. Mary's County

"WINTER WATERFOWL AT BEAUVUE"

Leaders: Sigrid Stiles. (301-872-4053, sigstiles@aol.com).

View wintering waterfowl at the ponds at Beauvue. We'll also search for land birds such as Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Short-eared Owl and Eastern Meadowlark. No facilities, no fees. Meet at Leonardtown Middle School parking lot. Drive south from Leonardtown on Rt. 5. Turn right at the light at Medley's Neck Rd then immediately left into the parking lot. RSVP required.

January 30 – Sunday - 8 AM - noon

Piscataway Park & Hard Bargain Farm, Prince George's County

"WINTER WATERFOWL AND RESIDENT BIRDS"

Leader: Chris Ordiway (301-203-8014, BirdRamble@strixvaria.org, email use preferred). Prime area for wintering waterfowl. Woods, farm fields, and edges also provide good variety of land birds. Take Rt. 210, Indian Head Highway to Livingston Rd (South of Farmington Rd and North of Rt. 228). Take Livingston Rd. east and meet at Burger King in the shopping center, located at 15785 Livingston Rd. Accokeek, MD 20607. No facilities or fee. Limit of 20. This is a joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. RSVP required.

February 6 – Sunday – 8 AM - noon

Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert County

"WINTER WATERFOWL TRIP"

Leader: Tyler Bell (301-862-4623, jtlyerbell@yahoo.com).

Open fields and wooded areas can provide good land birding. The river frontage enables close views of waterfowl in winter. Call or email the leader for directions to the meeting location. RSVP required.

March 5 – Saturday - 8 AM - noon

Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary's County

"LATE WINTER LAND BIRDS, WATERFOWL"

Leader: Dean Newman (240-895-7321, dean.newman@verizon.net).

This trip has produced Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Short-eared Owl, and waterfowl in the past. Previous attendees raved about this field trip. You must sign up for this trip before February 28 due to security requirements; social security number required. Meet at the Park & Ride lot across from the Lexington Park Post Office on Tulagi Place. RSVP required by February 28!!!

April 23 – Saturday – 8 AM (2/3 day)

Western Charles County

"CHASE!"

Leader: George Jett (301-843-3524, gmjett@comcast.net). Starting from Pt. Tobacco, and cruising around the lower western side of Charles County.

Will meet for carpooling in La Plata. Contact leader for details. Possibility of 100 species in April! Bring lunch, drinks. Bathrooms along the way. No fee. Limit 10, RSVP required.

May 7 – Saturday – 8 AM - noon

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Calvert County

Gray's Road off Sixes Road (Rt. 506), Pr. Frederick, MD

"BARRED OWLS AND PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS"

Leader: Andy Brown (410-535-5327, brownaj@co.ca.md.us)

Target species include Prothonotary, Hooded and Kentucky Warblers, as well as other notable spring migrants. Particular emphasis will be on identification by song. From Prince Frederick, Rt. 2/4, 2 miles, right onto Sixes Rd. 2 miles, left onto Gray's Rd. Nature Center entrance on the right. Facilities, no fee. RSVP required.

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: George Jett (301-843-3524, gmjett@comcast.net);

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

St. Mary's: Bob Boxwell (401-394-1300), bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

May 21 – Saturday – 8 AM - noon

Smallwood State Park, Charles County *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

"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.

May 28 – Saturday - 8:30 AM

Barn Owls & Breakfast, Charles County *Youths especially welcome!*

Leader: Mike Callahan (301-259-2162, raptorsrule@juno.com).

Join our Raptor Conservation Committee Chairman Mike Callahan for a new version of B&B. Trip participants will enjoy breakfast before we check a Barn Owl nest box and possibly band the nestling owls. This trip will take place on private property, so the location is not being advertised. There is a \$3 fee to help cover the cost of food. Bring your own reusable plate, mug and utensils to help make this a "greener" trip. Sign up with Mike by May 21 at 301-259-2162. Limited space is available. You will be notified of meeting location upon sign up.

To be announced in an upcoming *The Osprey* newsletter

Southern Calvert County in conjunction with the Asbury Retirement Community Field Trip

Keep your eyes peeled in future issues of *The Osprey* for a later, more relaxing departure time field trip lead by Sue Hamilton.

- **Before heading out to any field trip please check the SMAS website for any changes at www.somdaudubon.org**

**SOUTHERN MARYLAND
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 181
Bryans Road, MD 20616

THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY (SMAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS) and is the largest citizen group involved in nature study and natural resource conservation issues in the Southern Maryland counties of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's and southern Prince George's. SMAS was founded in 1971 and in 1972 was chartered by the National Audubon Society. SMAS is a non-profit organization, incorporated in Maryland with its activities financed by a membership dues-sharing arrangement with NAS and by SMAS fund raising activities. It operates under the provisions of an approved constitution with business conducted by directors and officers elected by its members.

YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF SMAS by joining NAS or by joining SMAS as a Chapter-Only member. See below for membership rates. A National Membership brings you six issues of the Audubon magazine. Chapter-Only and National Memberships provide you the SMAS newsletter, all rights and privileges of memberships, and make contributions to conservation in Southern Maryland and throughout the USA. Membership dues are sent to:

Southern Maryland Audubon Society,
P.O. Box 181
Bryans Road, MD 20616.

Chapter-Only, Individual/Family \$20.00
Chapter-Only, Senior/Student..... \$15.00

(For Chapter-Only Membership, make the check payable to Southern Maryland Audubon Society. All dues go to SMAS)

National, Regular (Renewal)..... \$35.00
National, Introductory (one year)..... \$20.00
National, Senior/Student..... \$15.00

(For National Membership, make the check payable to National Audubon Society. A fraction of NAS dues go to the local chapter.)

GENERAL MEETINGS are held from September through May, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. These meetings, publicized in advance, are open to the general public and feature a guest speaker or film dealing with topics of natural history and conservation as detailed in this brochure. Arrive at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and socializing before the program starts.

AN ANNUAL MEETING for election of officers is usually held on the first Sunday of June. The program includes a potluck lunch, election of officers, lecture or other program event and late afternoon bird walks. Members are encouraged to bring guests.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS are held August through June, usually the last Wednesday of the month, to conduct the business of the Society. Members are welcome to attend. See *The Osprey* for the date and location of the next board meeting.

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, *The Osprey*, is sent to each member. It contains information on monthly programs, field trips, environmental issues, local activities and chapter business.

A 50-ACRE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY called Nanjemoy Marsh Sanctuary, located on Nanjemoy Creek in Charles County, is owned and operated by SMAS.

FIELD TRIPS are arranged by a Field Trip Committee for various weekends from September through June. The field trips, led by experienced members, introduce participants to the natural history of various localities throughout Southern Maryland, and other places such as Blackwater, Bombay Hook and Little Creek National Wildlife Refuges. Generally, each trip begins at 8:00 a.m. and lasts either a half day or a full day. Transportation is arranged by the participants. Guests are welcome, as are children when accompanied by an adult. Special youth trips are also featured. A telephone number listed with each field trip notice lets participants get information about appropriate clothing and equipment, or about cancellation due to the weather.

FOUR SOUTHERN MARYLAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS are conducted by SMAS or others under the rules established by the National Audubon Society. Help for each of these counts is needed from

all: backyard birders, beginners, team leaders. The data and information collected help to save our birds and their habitat.

DECEMBER 19
Sunday - Port Tobacco Count
Coordinator: Gwen Brewer (301-843-3524)

DECEMBER 26
Sunday - Point Lookout Count
Coordinator: Bob Boxwell (410-394-1300)

JANUARY 2
Sunday - Patuxent River Count
Coordinator: Andy Brown (Work 410-535-5327)

JANUARY 2
Sunday - Fort Belvoir Count
MD Area Coordinator: Carol Ghebelian (301-753-6754)

A SMALL BOOKSTORE is managed by SMAS and operated at each monthly meeting as a service to members. The inventory includes a variety of field guides and other nature books, including books for children. Nest boxes, specialty items, and shade-grown coffee are also offered. Requested items can be special ordered.

A RAPTOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM conducts raptor research in Southern Maryland to include the search for nesting sites for Barn Owls and American Kestrels and the placing of nest boxes where appropriate. It also conducts annual banding operations of nestling Ospreys, Barn Owls, and American Kestrels. This work is principally funded by our Adopt-a-Raptor program that seeks foster parents for each year's banded birds. See *The Osprey* or contact our committee for further information.

FOR INFORMATION on membership, meetings, field trips, carpooling, conservation issues, or to report bird sightings or environmental problems call one of the officers or committees listed or your county representative.

VISIT US ON THE WEB!

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