High School. Meet in the Lower (2nd) parking lot. Bring a spotting scope if you have one, and be prepared for a moderate walk. No facilities and no fee. This is joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society. RSVP required.

December 4 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.
Monthly Meeting Program
Leonardtown Library, St. Mary’s County
23250 Hollywood Road (Rt. 245), Leonardtown, MD 20650
“Holiday Nature Arts Fest”
Come display your photography, artwork, or any nature-oriented craft. Some work may be offered for holiday purchase. Enjoy an evening of sharing and viewing while nibbling on cakes and cookies. If interested in selling your work at this event contact: Lynne Wheeler at 301-743-3236 or comstocke1@aol.com. A great start for the holiday season!

December 6 AND December 13
FRIDAY – 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Field Trip
Myrtle Point Park, St. Mary’s County
“WINTER OWL PROWLS”
Leader: Bob Boxwell (410-610-5124, bobboxwell@hotmail.com)
Youths especially welcome!
This trip is co-sponsored with the Friends of Myrtle Point Park and is an annual event which attempts to “call out” the resident owls of the park. Owls are nocturnal, and therefore, not easy to spot. We will meet in front of the park gates and attempt to attract owls by having them respond to recorded calls. Please dress for the weather, but avoid “noisy” clothing (please no snowsuits!). This event is weather dependent. Rain or high winds will result in cancellation. To find Myrtle Point Park, take Rt. 4 in St. Mary’s County to Patuxent Boulevard, and follow to the end.

2013-2014 OFFICERS
President, Mike Callahan
240-765-5192
Vice-President, Michael Patterson
301-752-5763
Secretary, Lynne Wheeler
301-743-3236
Treasurer, Will Daniel
301-274-5756
Past President, Bob Lukinic
301-283-6317

2013 Fall Program

The Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS) and is the largest citizen group involved in natural resource conservation, environmental education and nature study in Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s and southern Prince George’s county. Please join us for one of our events this Fall!

You can become a member of SMAS by joining NAS or by joining SMAS as a Chapter-Only member. Please see our membership information on our website or call a membership committee chair listed above.

Our Raptor Conservation Program conducts raptor research and conservation in the Southern Maryland area and is supported by our Adopt-a-Raptor program. The program currently includes four species: Osprey, Barn Owl, American Kestrel and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Please see our website for adoption details and assist in our cause.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 2013/2014
Dec. 15 Port Tobacco Count Gwen Brewer
glbreaver@comcast.net
Dec. 22 Point Lookout Count Bob Boxwell
bobboxwell@hotmail.com
Dec. 29 Patuxent River Andy Brown
brownaj@co.cal.md.us
Jan. 5 Ft. Belvoir Carol Ghebelian
ghebelian@comcast.net
SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
Field Trips, Programs, Meetings & Events

September 4 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.
Monthly Meeting Program
Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary’s County
37600 New Market Rd. (Rt. 6 at Rt. 5), Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
“The Gambia and Senegal – George and Gwen in West Africa”
Gwen Brewer, Ornithologist and
George Jett, Naturalist and Photographer
In November 2012, our favorite local Audubon pair travelled for three weeks to The Gambia and Senegal, their focus on its wildlife, landscape, and culture. The varied habitats of the area host abundant indigenous plants and animals, in addition to migrant species and newly planted species. The birdlife in the Gambia is colorful and rich, with 560 species inhabiting coastal saltwater, freshwater wetlands, savanna, woodlands and forests, agricultural lands, towns and villages. A known hot spot for ornithologists! Our presenters saw over 300 species and captured over 200 images including Egyptian Plover, reptiles, mammals, and some rare endemic birds. They will also offer us a peek into the area’s culture and African landscapes, peppered and spiced with their usual humorous discussion.

September 15 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – Noon
Field Trip
Patauken River Naval Air Station, St. Mary’s County
“GRASSPIPERS”
Leader: Kyle Rambo (301-757-0005, kyle.rambo@navy.mil)
This trip will visit some excellent grassland habitat on restricted access runways. Target species include Buff-breasted Sandpiper and American Golden Plover. Meet in the parking lot at NAS Gate #1. We are limited to 10 participants, and pre-registration is mandatory: call 301-757-0005. Open only to US citizens. Must bring a photo ID.

September 21 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – Noon
Field Trip
Smallwood State Park, Charles County
“MULTI-HABITAT BIRDING”
Leaders: Michael Patterson and Lynne Wheeler (301-751-8097, comstockel@aol.com)
Join us for a bird-filled exploration of this scenic and historic Patuxent River property. Beginners welcome! Several new trails and new habitats have added to Sotterley’s extensive natural areas and agricultural acreage. Sparrows, raptors, woodpeckers and waterbirds on the river should keep things lively. From Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through gates to the gravel parking lot on the Sotterley historic property.

October 2 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.
Monthly Meeting Program
Leonardtown Library, St. Mary’s County
23250 Hollywood Road (Rt. 245), Leonardtown, MD 20650
“The Northern Saw-whet Owl in Southern Maryland”
Melissa Boyle, Naturalist
Join Melissa Boyle to learn more about the elusive Northern Saw-whet Owl, Maryland’s smallest owl species. Once thought to be a rare visitor to our area, it is now known to frequent Southern Maryland, if you know where and when to look! Come and find out when and where this species is most likely to be found. Research on this species has been ongoing in Maryland for almost twenty years, but only recently has begun in Southern Maryland. Learn all about this fascinating little owl and how you can contribute to the research and conservation of the Northern Saw-whet Owl in our area.

October 2 – WEDNESDAY – 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Fundraiser Texas Roadhouse, Lexington Park
Please take a break looking for migrants in trees and support SMAS by joining us at the Texas Roadhouse restaurant prior to the monthly meeting program listed above. See the Osprey newsletter or our website at www.somdaudubon.org for the Texas Roadhouse flyer that you must bring in order for SMAS to get credit. PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SOCIETY!!

October 5 - SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – Noon
Field Trip
Cove Point Beach and Marsh, Calvert County
“SPARROWS AND SHOREBIRDS”
Leader: Bob Boxwell (410-610-5124, bobboxwell@hotmail.com),
We will visit beach and marsh habitat that attract many interesting sparrows and shorebirds. A Living Shoreline project has established breakwaters and vegetation to protect the interior marsh and return it to its fresh-water status. Meet at the Giant Parking lot off of Route 2/4 at the Lusby Town Center (Rousby Hall Road) at 8:00 a.m. We will carpool to the locale as there is limited parking. Limited to only ten people and reservations are required, RSVP by October 1st.

October 12 - SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m. – Noon
Field Trip
Indian Head Rail Trail, Charles County
“RED-HEADS ON THE RAIL TRAIL”
Leaders: Michael Patterson, Lynne Wheeler (301-751-8097, comstockel@aol.com)
There are a few hot spots on the Indian Head Rail Trail that provide good wintering habitat for Red-headed Woodpeckers, yielding high numbers of individuals. One of the hot spots has revealed up to 23 birds! Join us for a leisurely morning of birding along the trail in search of woodpeckers, sparrows and other land birds. Meet and park at MD Rt. 224 IHRT Parking Lot, located just east of MD Rt. 225.

November 6 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.
Monthly Meeting Program
La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, Charles County
911 Washington Avenue, La Plata, MD 20646
“The Maryland Biodiversity Project”
Jim Brighton, Naturalist and Photographer
The Maryland Biodiversity Project was started in June, 2012 by Bill Hubick and Jim Brighton to thoroughly catalog the living things of Maryland. We have already cataloged over 10,000 species, including over 3,200 species with photographs contributed by more than 130 photographers. We are excited to collaborate with the many exceptional naturalists in and around Maryland in making this an indispensable resource for conservation and education. Do not miss this very interesting program!!

November 23 - SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – Noon
Field Trip
Mattawoman Natural Environment Area, Charles County
“EARLY WATERFOWL FROM THE GEORGE WILMOT TRAIL”
Leader: Gwen Brewer (301-843-3524, gbrewer@comcast.net)
Come search for migrating waterfowl and songbirds in this prime habitat! Up to 5,000 individuals and 13 different species of waterfowl have been present, including Eurasian Wigeon. From Rt. 225 (Hawthorne Road)/Rt. 224 (Chicamuxen Road) intersections take Rt. 224, go approximately ½ mile and take a left into Lackey...