It's March and St. Patrick's Day is a few weeks away and so are the first days of spring! Bald Eagles have hatched, Barn Owls have eggs, and Timberdoodles are dancing. Spotted Salamanders are migrating to their vernal ponds for their underwater ballet and the Ospreys have returned. What ritual of spring are you taking part in? Are you preparing your yard and garden for the new season? Did you clean out your Bluebird box? Have you started monitoring your nest boxes? Are you planting seeds of native plants to provide food and shelter for birds and insects?

All of these things are rites of spring in Southern Maryland and often can only exist because they are part of the bigger ecosystem picture. They work like partners with each other and Earth to keep things in balance. One organism may pollinate a flower and in turn gets eaten by a predator. The predator may die so that a decomposer gets to live when the cycle of life starts all over again as nutrients are released and may provide nutrition for new seeds to grow. It is all a part of the web of life and without these connections the world would be out of balance. It is because of the imbalance in our natural world that the National Audubon Society and so many other conservation organizations exist. And just like you, SMAS, too, has some spring rituals.

It is the time of year when our Conservation Committee gears up because our State Legislature is in session. Conservation Committee Chair Millie Kriemelmeyer will be kept busy with the environmental issues that will be up for vote in Annapolis. They include the Pesticide Information Act, the No Studies, No Fracking: Fracking Moratorium Now, Offshore Wind Power, and Clean Water, Healthy Families. Millie is looking for a representative from St. Mary's County for her Committee. She is also accepting nominations for the SMAS Conservationist of the Year.

The Education Committee Chair Paula Batzer and her committee have been busy with judging science fairs throughout Southern Maryland, and accepting applications for our Educators Scholarship to Audubon Camp in Maine. Paula is retiring from our Board of Directors so we are also looking for a new committee chair. Thank you, Paula, for serving as chair of this committee for the past two years and for lending your educator’s eyes and ears to SMAS. Your service and dedication will be missed!

Another SMAS ritual of spring is the Election of Officers. It is time to nominate officers and Board of Directors (BOD) members for the next year. Wouldn’t you like to be part of our BOD Team and help work toward regaining natural balance in the world? We are a fun group of conservation minded people who enjoy working with others to help conserve birds, wildlife and habitat in Southern Maryland.

I am busy with the Raptor Conservation Committee business of monitoring American Kestrel and Barn Owl nest boxes and Osprey platforms. Our raptor social worker, Melissa Boyle, of Adopt-a-Raptor, is preparing for a busy new season of raptors to adopt out.

Bob Boxwell, Ernie Willoughby and I are preparing for the Spring Semester and their evening call, The Life of Birds class at the College of Southern Maryland.

How balanced is your world? Does your yard have places for wildlife to hide? Places they can find food and water. Places to raise their young? Do you feel like you need a greater connection to your natural world? Do you want to learn more about birds in Southern Maryland? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then there is a connection to SMAS for you. Start a new passage of spring this year and help by being an active steward of the planet with us. Were all in this together so let’s help make our region a more environmentally sound and better place then we arrived here.

Naturally,
President Mike Callahan
2012 Port Tobacco Christmas Count

On December 16, 2012, 18 people ventured out for this Charles County count. Our number included two new participants in the count this year, Jim Green from Gaithersburg and Chris Mercer from Waldorf, in addition to those faithful folks in sectors that some have covered for many years. The 9 groups covered in total 33 miles on foot and 180 miles by car, and logged 63 hours. Although participation was down this year, an impressive 93 species and about 15,000 individual birds were found in the count circle. Perhaps most exciting is that two species were noted that had never been recorded during a Christmas Bird Count in this count circle! Temperatures were quite warm (45-55 degrees F), the wind was light, and precipitation was very brief. Although the warm winter to this point likely reduced waterfowl numbers and variety, 14 species of waterfowl were still found on the count. Numbers were low for Tundra Swan (15) and Lesser Scaup (19), but Mike Callahan and his Virginia crew (Meagan Keefe, Steve and Diane Boyle) found over 1400 Ruddy Ducks in the Potomac. Mike and his group also found the only Eastern Phoebe and group of Wild Turkeys this year, and Dave and Dylan Henderson the only Gray Catbird and Fish Crows. The waterfowl diversity award goes to Jim Green, who found our only Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, and Common Goldeneye this year, and Jean Artes and Lynne Wheeler found the only Mute Swans. Other interesting finds near water were Black-crowned Night Herons at Allens Fresh (by Jim Green- first time on the count!), and Wilson’s (formerly Common) Snipe and American Woodcock at two locations. Great Horned Owls were found by three groups (Tom Seaton, Gwen Brewer and George Jett, Jim Green), but Eastern Screech-Owl only by one and Barred Owl was an amazing miss this year. Jim Green did get to see one of the Barn Owls at Allens Fresh, where the SMAS nest box program has really made a difference. He also spotted a Merlin at the Port Tobacco Courthouse, only the third time for this species on the count. George Harrington, Angela Marlow, and Lee Vines had the count’s only Sharp-shinned Hawk this year, and of course came through with the only Rock Pigeons in the La Plata area. Certainly a huge highlight of this year was the “Alaska comes to Charles County” moment experienced by participants either counting in or passing by the Allens Fresh area. Carol Ghebelian and Bob Lukinic counted 86 adult and 59 immature Bald Eagles, and Jim Green and Dave Henderson noted a total of three Golden Eagles (2 adults and 1 immature) in the crowd! This is the first time that Golden Eagles have been noted on this count, and indeed they are a very rare occurrence in southern Maryland. The highest number of Bald Eagles on the count previously was 94 in 2011 - this year in total we had 175. Black (229) and Turkey Vultures (235) were also present in high numbers in the area - all taking advantage of a large fish kill due to Hurricane Sandy. Apparently, the fish (mostly carp) were pushed into the Fresh by the storm, then became stranded when the water receded. This smelly feast made for an amazing eagle phenomenon and we are lucky that it was still attracting these scavengers during the count period. Other unusual finds were a Rufous Hummingbird that was visiting a feeder in La Plata; a late Laughing Gull at the Port Tobacco Marina; and a House Wren at Windmill Point. Woodpecker and small songbird numbers were comparable to previous years, but a larger number of Belted Kingfishers (23), Winter Wrens (14) and Song Sparrows (244) were counted. A good number of White-crowned Sparrows (9) was seen, although otherwise sparrow numbers were quite typical. The only American Pipits were spotted by Jean Artes and Lynn Wheeler, and the only Horned Lark by Gwen Brewer and George Jett. Chris Mercer found large flocks of Common Grackles (1000) and Brown-headed Cowbirds (400) near Goose Bay, always an impressive sight. Northern eruptive species were in very small numbers or absent entirely, with no Purple Finches or Pine Siskins, and only 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches, although we were hopeful that the crossbills spotted in the state might appear in the count circle. Our smaller crew really did a great job of covering a lot of territory and turning up some very exciting finds!

Thanks again to all who participated!
Gwen Brewer, Compiler

Sad News For Wild Bird Feeding
In Southern Maryland

On March 1, Dee’s Wild Bird Lovers store in Waldorf will close its doors for the last time. It was not only a place to buy birdseed, feeders and backyard birding supplies, but a place to go and share your bird stories and learn about what was going on at other people’s bird feeders. Owner Mary Ann Scott joined our SMAS Board of Directors in the Fall Bookstore Committee Chairman. Even though her store is closed, you can still see her at our SMAS meetings running the bookstore. The store started by Lee and Dee Duer and continued by Mary Ann may no longer be, but the legacy and memories of their service to the birding community will live on. Thank you Lee, Dee and Mary Ann for being there for us, and for birds and wildlife.
Kite Flying
by Lynne Wheeler

Now that I have caught your eye with the title, rest assured this is not about flying a kite, but about a recent sighting of an American Swallow-tailed Kite (Elanoides forficatus).

On December 30, Carol Ghebelian, Ted Baker, and I were enjoying our day participating in the Ft. Belvoir Christmas Bird Count. After an exhausting two hours of trying to count the many hundreds of Canada Geese and multiple species of ducks at an overlook of the Mattawoman Creek in Indian Head, we moved further down the creek to Mattingly Park (Slavins Dock). This section of the creek is close to the Potomac River.

We were lucky to have a new birder with us, Ted Baker, which afforded us the luxury to have him compile a tally of the numerous Tundra Swans while Carol and I searched for other species of interest. At 11:15 a.m. I noticed across the creek, above the tree tops, at an approximate distance of 1 km, an accipiter-like raptor. Using 10x42 binoculars I began an exciting observation. My immediate thought (seconds only, my brain was flying!) is that a small eagle carrying sticks? No, it is more Osprey-like…I see a white head, I see a white belly, dark back. Oh my, I do believe we have a ….nope I am not going to say it. CAROL! Please get a bead on this bird. I think we have something of interest.

Carol and I both continued to observe our bird of interest cross the creek for about 90 seconds. It then decided to fly toward us, slightly northwest. While it was in the middle of the creek we both enjoyed the spectacle of several crows dive bombing and irritating our special visitor. The view at this point was about 175 yards from our observation point. Our concentration was intense on its tail, as it was FORKED! It continued to soar across the creek and then disappeared into the tree tops.

I dropped my binoculars down, looked at Carol, and said "Well?" Carol replied "Lynne, it's a kite! A Swallow-tailed Kite!" I replied "I know! I was waiting for you to say it; I didn’t want to put the word in your head!" Carol laughed at my deviousness and we basked in glory and excitement to have witnessed such a beautiful bird. In the meantime poor Ted was still counting swans. Thanks Ted!

The Ft. Belvoir CBC began in the early 1980’s. This was the first Swallow-tailed Kite (STKI) to be reported for this circle. It now brings the total species count for the Maryland (vs. Virginia) sector to 130. Our Kite was not seen again in the area but a STKI was seen on Monday, January 7 in Sheperdstown, WV by a birder attending a scientific conference. He took a break and walked to a Potomac River overlook platform, looked below, and there he viewed the unmistakable long split tail and white head. Could this have been our bird? If so it flew 100 miles up the Potomac in 8 days. How exciting for kites to be flying now and this far north.

SMAS is in search of a few good people to fill some important positions on our Board of Directors. We are in search of a St. Mary’s County representative to our Conservation Committee who would report their county conservation issues to the Conservation Committee Chair. We are also in search of an Education Committee Chair. This committee is responsible for reviewing scholarship applications and judging science fairs. If you are interested in either of these volunteer positions, please contact President Mike Callahan at 240-765-5192 or at raptorsrulemc@gmail.com

SMAS Offers Beginner’s Birdwatching Class At The College Of Southern Maryland

Members of SMAS are teaching this class for the second year! The Life of Birds, PEP-8370 will be offered at the La Plata, Leonardtown Campuses on Thursday nights from April 11 to May 2 from 7-8:30pm. Mike Callahan is teaching at La Plata and Ernie Willoughby is teaching at Leonardtown. The Prince Frederick class is on Friday nights from April 5 – 26 and will be taught by Bob Boxwell. The class ends with a joint birding field trip on Saturday, May 4. To register for the class go to www.csmd.edu/Go/Register.
Landmark Move To Protect Albatrosses In The Western And Central Pacific

http://tinyurl.com/albatross-ruling

After long deliberations stretching across four days, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) have agreed to measures that could result in significant reductions in the deaths of albatrosses, which accidentally get snagged on long line fishing hooks and then drown.

The meeting, held in the Philippines, announced that all longline vessels in the South Pacific will now be required to use two seabird bycatch mitigation measures in areas overlapping with albatrosses. Vessels must choose from a choice of either bird streamers, also known as tori lines, which scare birds away from the hooks; adding weights to hooks to make them sink more quickly; or setting hooks at night when most birds are less active.

The move brings the WCPFC, which is the world’s largest tuna commission, in-line with the measures adopted in Atlantic in November 2011 and the Indian Ocean in April 2012.

Scientists estimate that upwards of 300,000 seabirds are being killed every year by longline fisheries; it’s believed this is the primary reason behind 17 of the world’s 22 species of albatrosses being threatened with extinction.

Home to globally important populations of 14 albatross species, including Antipodean, Chatham, Buller’s, Salvin’s, Shy and White-capped, the Pacific Ocean is home to large fleets of longliners fishing for tuna. Tuna longliners typically deploy several thousand hooks every day, attached by branchlines to a main line that can be more than 100km long. Seabirds, especially albatrosses, are vulnerable to becoming hooked when they take the bait, and are drowned as the line sinks.

Dr Cleo Small, from the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK) and BirdLife International, said, “This move is great news for albatrosses worldwide, including some UK albatross species such as the wandering albatross, which fly right around the world in the non-breeding period and can be victims of bycatch from the longliners that fish in the South Pacific. Without such measures, these beautiful birds could be lost forever.”

Although an understanding of the scale and nature of this threat has been known for a long time, the development of measures to reduce bycatch has been slow. BirdLife International’s Global Seabird Program has been particularly active in devising and testing technologies and fishing practices to reduce the problem and be part of the solution; the Albatross Task Force, founded by the organizations, works directly with fishermen and fishery managers in eight bycatch hotspot countries worldwide to reduce the number of seabirds being killed.

The news from the WCPFC today follows the strong set of measures put in place last April when the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) agreed that fishing vessels must use two out of three measures to reduce bycatch when working in areas where albatrosses occur.

Karen Baird, from Forest and Bird (BirdLife in New Zealand) was at the negotiations. “Global fisheries have a duty and responsibility to fish sustainably and to minimize their impact on non-target species, such as seabirds and sea turtles. This measure is a very welcome move towards this goal: if implemented this could reduce the number of albatrosses killed by 80%. Now that these measures have been adopted in the Atlantic, Indian and South Pacific oceans, we hope that the North Pacific and East Pacific will follow suit.”

New Course for Menhaden
December 14, 2012

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission voted to adopt a science-based plan to better protect menhaden, a fish vital to the marine ecosystem and to important commercial fisheries. Never before have we had a coastwide cap on the harvesting of menhaden. With this decision, the Commission voted to reduce the catch of menhaden by 20 percent.

CBF applauds this historic action. It is a critical step toward restoring healthy menhaden stocks along the Atlantic coast and in the Chesapeake Bay. This decision will not only benefit the Bay, osprey, striped bass, and bluefish, but will begin to ensure a sustainable fishery for those who depend on menhaden for their livelihood.

It is imperative that East Coast states from Maine to Florida implement the commission’s management plan. This is especially important in Virginia, where more than 80 percent of the coastwide menhaden catch is landed.

Thank all of you who supported the protection of this most important fish (the Commission received more than 120,000 comments of which 86 percent supported a strong conservation-minded management plan for menhaden).

This tremendous decision would not have been possible without your voice. Today, we can look forward to healthier fisheries and the restoration of the economic engine that contributes greatly to our prosperity and ultimate well-being.

Chris Moore
Hampton Roads Senior Scientist
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
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, $35 for each American Kestrel or $30 for each Northern Saw-whet Owl to:

Melissa Boyle
10455 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
_____ (# of) Northern Saw-whet Owl, $30.00 each

Amount Enclosed:______________________

Make checks payable to:
Southern Maryland Audubon Society

SAVE THE DATE!
OSPREY BANDING TRIP - June 18, 2013- 10:30AM

The annual Southern Maryland Audubon Society Osprey Banding Trip is now scheduled for Tuesday, June 18 at Patuxent River Park - Jug Bay. We will meet at 10:30 AM and spend several hours working with Naturalist Greg Kearns on the Patuxent River banding ospreys. This opportunity is limited to 15 participants! Cost is $12 per person payable the day of the trip. Contact Melissa Boyle (melissaboyle3@gmail.com or 443-340-3035) to register for this trip.

First Sea Turtle Hatched In Maryland

WASHINGTON - Usually the weather is too cold or storm waters overrun the nests, but Maryland’s first-ever confirmed sea turtle has hatched and is now thriving. Assateague Island National Seashore off Maryland’s Eastern Shore never has had a viable sea turtle nest until now. Eggs from a nest rescued from Assateague Island before Hurricane Sandy hit in October were taken to incubate at the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

A baby turtle that had its nose sticking out of an egg when pulled from the sand is now receiving antibiotics. It is boosting its strength and swimming a little longer in the aquarium pool every day. Another live turtle, fully hatched, was found with the nest, but it subsequently died from a bacterial infection.

This far north on the East Coast, eggs take about 30 percent longer to hatch - making them vulnerable to cold and storms. Last year, a nest in Delaware hatched that state’s first confirmed sea turtle. Jennifer Dittmar, a stranded animal coordinator at the National Aquarium, says there was a record number of sea turtle nests reported this year along the East Coast and Gulf Coast of Florida. But fewer eggs were laid by each turtle and average survival rates of hatchlings was lower. “We’re not sure what environmental effects are going on that might have caused that sort of process, but we’re excited to look forward to more sea turtle nests in the future up in our area,” Dittmar says.

Read more about the aquarium’s rescued and released animals:
http://www.aqua.org/care/marine-animal-rescue-program

WTOP’s Kristi King contributed to this report.
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White-winged Dove in Calvert!
by Tom Harten

The winter of 2012-2013 will go down as one of the great birding years of recent memory. An irruption year, as predicted by Ron Pittaway, the winter finch prognosticator of the Ontario Field Naturalists came to pass, as flocks of pine siskins, crossbills, and redpolls descended into Maryland because of a poor cone crop in the northern latitudes.

Determined to find our first Calvert County White-winged Crossbills, my co-worker and fellow birder Michelle Daubon and I walked our daily circuit amongst the pines at Annmarie Gardens and Art Center where we help teach an environmental education program for the Calvert County Public Schools, CHESPAX program.

On February 1, we were finishing our loop around the parking lot when a large dove flew up from the ground, alighting in a nearby shrub. Although our focus was on the crowns of the pine trees in our search for crossbills, the flash of white in the wings of the nearby dove quickly drew our attention. We were able to identify the bird as a White-winged Dove, a first record for Calvert County and a bird more likely to be seen in southern Texas than in southern Maryland!

The bird perched cooperatively near the edge of the parking lot for several minutes, allowing Michelle a chance to snap some documentation photos with her cell phone. We had time to post an alert to the MD Google groups birding list, before duties with our second grade students resumed.

After our class had ended, the bird obligingly remained close-by, affording us great views of this southwestern rarity. Shortly afterward we were joined by Fred Fallon who arrived with proper photographic equipment and posted some excellent images of the bird on the web later that evening.

When I returned home that evening and checked the MDBirding list, I was disappointed to see that other birders had attempted to find the bird without success.

I had to head south the next day to run a few errands, so I grabbed my camera in the hopes of relocating the dove and obtaining some satisfactory photos of my own. When I arrived at the gardens, Jane Kostenko was already there in search of the bird. We joined forces and soon other birders began to arrive to look for the misplaced dove. After about 20 or 30 minutes of searching, a single dove flew into one of the tall loblolly pines. We scanned carefully and the White-winged Dove finally revealed itself again, eventually settling down on the ground near the parking lot edge.

Jane alerted the other team of birders and we obtained nice looks at the bird for a few short minutes. Unfortunately, a Cooper’s Hawk, apparently unimpressed by the rarity of this southwestern species, made a hard pass at the dove which flew off, with the accipiter in close pursuit. We were able to see the dove make a good escape, but that was the last view of the bird despite searches from several birders.

Although we have yet to find White-winged Crossbills this winter, this other “white-wing” has served as a more than ample consolation prize!

White-winged Dove
Photo by: Tom Harten

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Please enroll me as a member of the Audubon Family and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society. I will receive the chapter newsletter, The Osprey, and all my dues will support environmental efforts in Southern Maryland.
- Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society. My membership will also include membership in the Southern Maryland Audubon Society. I will receive National’s Audubon Magazine, the chapter newsletter, and support national and local environmental causes. A fraction of my dues will be returned to the local chapter.

Name_______________________________________  Address______________________________________________
City_______________________ State__________ Zip_______

I DO        do NOT        wish to receive The Osprey electronically. My e-mail address is:____________________________
(electronic delivery saves SMAS printing and mailing costs.)

Chapter-Only Dues (new/renewal)
Make check payable to Southern Maryland Audubon Society

- Individual/Family   __1yr $20   __2yr $38   __3yr $56
- Senior/Student     __1yr $15   __2yr $28   __3yr $42
- Individual Lifetime Membership ______$500
  Senior (over 62) ______$250

National Dues, Make check payable to National Audubon Society -- Chapter code #C9ZL000Z

- Introductory Offer - 1 year $20
- Senior/Student $15

Mail to: Southern Maryland Audubon Society, Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 181  Bryans Road, MD  20616

White-winged Dove in Calvert!
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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2- SATURDAY- 8 AM – 12 noon – Field Trip
Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary’s County
“LATE WINTER LAND BIRDS & WATERFOWL”
Leader: Dean Newman (240-895-7321, dean.newman@verizon.net)
Meet at the Park and Ride lot across the street from the Lexington Park Post Office on Tulagi Place. This trip has produced Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings, Short-eared Owls and waterfowl in the past. Facilities and no fee. You must pre-register for this trip in advance. Call the leader for reservations and security details. RSVP required.

MARCH 6 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 PM
* NOTE LOCATION CHANGE*
Bannister Neighborhood Center, Charles County
1001 Armes Drive, Waldorf, MD 20602-1644
“A Habitat for All: Landscaping for Birds, Pollinators and You”
ANN BODLING, Hard Bargain Farm Children’s Gardener and Farm Hand
SMAS is very pleased to have this follow-up to Ann’s April 2011 program on planting with native plants. Ann will now take us further along in educating us that home landscapes can be refuges for people and creatures both. Come and learn how to landscape using pollinator plants, plants for birds, and other valuable plant species.

March 15- FRIDAY- 7 PM – Field Trip
* NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE*
Private Farm, Charles County Youths especially welcome!
“OWL PROWL”
Leader: Mike Callahan (240-765-5192, raptorsrulemc@gmail.com)
On this night hike we will listen and look for owls in Charles County. A great family night outing! Due to the sensitivity of possible nesting owls, the meeting location will be given upon registration. RSVP required.

APRIL 3 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 PM
Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary’s County
37600 New Market Road (Rt. 6 at Rt. 5), Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
“George’s Ethiopia Adventure”
GEORGE JETT, Photographer and Naturalist
In May 2012 George Jett traveled to Ethiopia in search of wildlife to photograph. His focus was endemic birds and mammals. George decided to ignore the agenda and shoot away at anything that would hold still, and some that did not! Come and see digital photo shots of over 250 species of birds, reptiles, and mammals, including the Ethiopian Wolf. George will also show shots of African landscapes, a glimpse of the culture, and we are sure a humorous discussion of the many experiences he enjoyed and endured.

April 13 - SATURDAY - 8 a.m. – 12 noon – Field Trip
Maxwell Hall Park, Charles County
“SPRING ALONG THE PATUXENT”
Leader: Gwen Brewer (301-843-3524, glbrewer@comcast.net)
Come explore the trails in two sections of this county park along the Patuxent River. We will observe birds of the forests, fields, ravines, and marshes, including spring migrants. We will also enjoy lovely views of the river and hopefully some lingering waterfowl. Take Route 231 to Maxwell Drive, just west of Benedict. Follow Maxwell Drive to its end, continuing to the right at the corner with Teagues Point Road. At the end of the road, park along the left side, outside of the gate for Maxwell Hall Equestrian Park. We will meet at the entrance gate. No facilities, no fee. RSVP required- limit 12.

April 27- SATURDAY- 8AM – 12 noon – Field Trip
Smallwood State Park, Charles County Youths especially welcome!
2750 Sweden Point Rd. Marbury, MD 20658
“MULTI-HABITAT BIRDING”
Leaders: Lynne Wheeler (301-751-8097, comstockel@aol.com) and Jean Artes. A favorite park for its varied habitats! The walk will offer you forest interior species, field/meadow species, raptors, wading birds, and gulls. Previous trips have revealed Prothonotary, Hooded and Kentucky Warblers. No reservations required, so you can make a last minute decision! The park meeting location will be posted at the entrance gate. A $3 per vehicle fee may be required. From Rt. 225/Rt. 224 intersection take Rt. 224 approximately 3 miles to park entrance on the right.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Linda Bodycomb, Lusby
Abby Denale, Chesapeake Beach
Stephen Larsen, Waldorf
Daniel Legg, Dunkirk
Ms. Judith Nathan, Waldorf
Thomas W. Newman, Clinton
Susan Noble, Huntingtown
Paul I. Padding, Lusby
Agnes Peters, Fort Washington
Janet B. Rowland, Leonardtown
Donald W. Thomas, Clinton