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, St. Mary’s and southern Prince George’s. SMAS was founded in 1971 and was chartered by the National Audubon Society in 1972. SMAS is a non-profit organization incorporated in Maryland, with 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.

Monthly Meetings are held from September through June, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. These meetings are publicized in advance, open to the general public, and feature a guest speaker or film dealing with topics of nature and conservation. Meetings are held from 7:30 p.m. for refreshments and socializing if the program is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

An Annual Meeting for election of officers is usually held on the first Sunday of June. The program includes a potluck lunch, election, and a late afternoon bird walk. The location varies each year amongst the four counties. Members are encouraged to bring guests.

Field Trips are arranged for various weekends throughout the year and are led by experienced members. Special youth trips are also featured. If you are a new birder we strongly recommend you to join our trips as it is the best way to learn and lots of fun. You will discover the wonderful birding spots in Southern Maryland while learning more about ouravian friends. A telephone and/or email address is listed with each leader. Most trips require guests to RSVP. Cancellation notification may be arranged directly from the leader or via the website.

Our Raptor Conservation committee is a primary effort of SMAS. The Raptor Conservation committee, aided by members, conducts research and enacts conservation activities in Southern Maryland. It is supported by our Adopt-a-Raptor program and currently includes four species: Osprey, Barn Owl, American Kestrel, and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Please see our website or newsletter for adoption details and assist our cause.

FREE EVENTS

JAN-JUNE FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

CANCELLATION NOTICE: Cancellation of an event may be necessitated due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances. SMAS does not guarantee a minimum participant enrollment. SMAS reserves the right to cancel any event. In such cases, a refund of all fees (except registration fees) will be made. Cancellation notification may be arranged directly from the leader or via the website.

HORSESHOE CRAB ADVENTURE AT Flag Ponds

Flag Ponds, Calvert County 1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, Lusby, MD 20657

“Nighttime Horsehoe Crab Adventure at Flag Ponds” Leader: Andy Brown

The horseshoe crab is one of nature’s miracles, and their eggs fuel the amazing migration of shorebirds! Want to see horseshoe crabs spawning on the beach by moonlight? Join us for this unique experience at this water’s edge. Bring flashlights, wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and plan on walking in the sand. Meet at the gate to Flag Ponds. RSVP to Andy at 443-624-3687 or lhowen@juno.com

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In order to improve your bird ID skills! Please contact the following county coordinators:

- Charles County – Bob Boxwell
- Calvert County – Bob Lukinic
- Prince George’s County – Millie Kriemelmeyer
- St. Mary’s County – Greg Klesch

Please visit our website or contact the appropriate county coordinator to arrange your trip or volunteer your help.

**Introductory Offer:** – 1 year $20

**Lifetime $500**

**1 yr $20**

**3 yr $45**

You can become a member of SMAS automatically by joining the National Audubon Society (SMAS receives a fraction of NAS dues) or by joining as a Chapter-only member (SMAS retains all dues received).

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January 28 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

**FIELD TRIP**

Jefferson Patterson Park, Calverton County

“Winter Waterfowl Trip”

Leader: Tyler Bell

Open fields and wooded areas provide good land birding and the river frontage offers choices of wetlands. Loons, mergansers, seaducks and dabblers are likely, often in great numbers. Call or email Tyler for directions to the meeting location. RSVP to Tyler Bell at jpbellke@gmail.com or 301-362-4623.

February 7 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM**

Southern MD Higher Education Center, St. Mary’s County, Building I, Room 123

44219 Airport Road, California, MD 20619

“A FEATHERED FRIEND MOVIE NIGHT! ANIMAL NAMES, EPISODE 1, THE NEST”

Bring the family on this movie night. This is episode 1 of 3 from the Nature Series Animal Names. Bird nests come in all shapes and sizes, crafted from an inexhaustible diversity of materials, both natural and man-made. We begin with a museum exhibit and then watch a short video to see in the wild, how birds arrive at diverse nesting grounds to collect, compete for, reject, steal and begin to build with carefully selected materials, crafting homes for the all-important task of protecting their eggs and raising their young. Light refreshments and mingling starts at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler at somaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

February 10 – SATURDAY – 7:00 p.m.

**FIELD TRIP**

Private Farm, Charles County

“Barn Owl Prowl”

Leader: Mike Callahan

Join us on this night hike to look and listen for the rare, year round resident owl of Southern Maryland, the Barn Owl. This is a great family outing! Bring a reusable mug for hot chocolate. The exact meeting location will be given at registration. Suggested donation of $5.00 per person supports our Raptor Conservation Fund. RSVP to Mike at rptptedeml@gmail.com or 246-756-5192.

February 25 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

**FIELD TRIP**

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

“Winter Birds and Tundra Specialist at Pax River Airfield”

Leader: Kyle Rambo

This trip will feature typical winter airfield birds such as Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Horned Larks, Savannah Sparrows, and possible Wilson’s Snipe and Peregrine Falcon. Pre-registration is required and open to U.S. citizens only. Trip is limited to 10 people. Must bring a photo ID. Meet at Gate 91 Visitor Parking Lot. RSVP to Kyle at kyle.rambo@navy.mil or 301-757-0005.

March 8 – THURSDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM**

Fairview Branch Library, Calvert County

8120 Southern Maryland Blvd, North Prince George’s County

“BIRDS & GLASS COLLISIONS – WHAT YOU CAN DO”

ANNE LEWIS, President, City Wildlife, Inc.

Each year we lose as many as 1 billion birds to deadly glass collisions. Anne Lewis will talk about their Lights Out DC bird collision monitoring program. You can also learn how to make that glass safe in your home and become a bird friendly building monitor. Light refreshments and mingling starts at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler at somaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

March 18 – SUNDAY – 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

**FAMILY FIELD TRIP – Youth’s Welcome!**

Port Tobacco River Park, Charles County

7685 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

“Eagle Nest Monitoring”

Leader: Lynne Wheeler and Lee Vines

Join us for our Port Tobacco River eagle nest and learn about the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership citizen-science monitoring program. Volunteers document the nesting success and productivity of the local eagle population to help guide conservation actions. An active monitoring program is vital to knowing when and where changes to breeding eagles are taking place. RSVP to Lynne at somaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

April 4 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**FAMILY FIELD TRIP – Youth’s Welcome!**

Clearwater Nature Center, Prince George’s County

11400 Thrift Rd, Clinton, MD 20735

“HUMMINGBIRDS – HOW TO ATTRACT THEM AND KEEP THEM AROUND”

BRUCE PETERJOHN, Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Our speaker administers the national bird banding program and the data management system for bird banding. His personal banding activities are focused on banding hummingbirds in the mid-Atlantic region, especially hummingbirds at St. James Church Road, Damselfly Road, Plaza Road and grapes. He will give a general talk about hummingbirds and how to attract them to your yard with native plants. We will also have a native plant sale, SMD Audubon Society fundraiser book sales, and raffle for supplies for “The Humane Gardener.” Light refreshments and mingling starts at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler at somaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

April 15 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

**FIELD TRIP**

Port Tobacco River Park, Charles County

7685 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

“Birds 101”

Leader: Lynne Wheeler, Lee Vines and Tiffany Farrell

Come on out to the new Charles county nature park and learn the basics about birding. We will discuss the four keys to identification of birds: size and shape, color pattern, behavior, and habitat. We will also delve into looking for field marks and using our backyard bird lists. The timing of this trip also gives us the possibility of seeing spring migrants. Bring your binoculars, but we also have some to lend. RSVP to Lynne Wheeler at somaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

April 22 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

**FIELD TRIP**

Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary’s County

44300 Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, MD 20636

“Eagles, Earth Day and Sotterley”

Leader(s): David Moultan

Celebrate Earth Day with a birdwalk at this scenic and historic Patuxent River property that has the annual surge of migratory birds beginning. Sighting Bald Eagles, migrating warblers, meadowlarks, woodpeckers and waterfowl are expected. From Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through the gates to the gravel parking lot on the left. The gate is open and you can park. Collect your trail guide at 240-278-4473 or moultan.davidh@gmail.com

April 28 – SUNDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

**FIELD TRIP**

Elms Environmental Education Center, St. Mary’s Co. 4909 3rd St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628

“Birding 101”

Leader(s): Ferry Ferris and Margarita Rochow

Calling all new and beginner birders! Do you want to get better at knowing what birds are you seeing? The Elms Environmental Education Center offers great habitat for birds. Ferry and Margarita will share helpful identification tips such as: bird size, color and facial markings, plumage details, field marks, flight patterns, sound, behavior, and habitat and seasonal expectation. Directions: Take Rt 235 south, left onto St. James Church Road (opposite Moulton Farm Park), right at Ben’s Corner, the sign for the Elms Environmental Education Center. Meet in the hunter’s dirt parking lot on the right before the gate. Call or email Ferry: ferri11@gmail.com or 410-326-1965.

May 2 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM**

Charles Soil Conservation District, Charles County

2402 Garden Highway, Fairview, MD 20601

“THE HUMANE GARDENER”

NANCY LAWSON, Author and Gardener

Welcome in your gardening season with the author of The Humane Gardener, Nancy Lawson, as she describes why and how you should open up your garden to birds and other wildlife. We will also discuss how to encourage native plants. We will also have a native plant sale, SMD Audubon Society fundraiser book sales, and raffle for supplies for “The Humane Gardener.” Light refreshments and mingling starts at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler at somaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

May 12 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

**FIELD TRIP**

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

7685 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

“A rare opportunity to bird the PAX River Naval Air Station, a restricted-access area of bird-friendly habitats that boasts one of the longest lists of native plants. We will also have some to lend. RSVP to Lynne at somaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).