

The Osprey

Newsletter of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society

President's Perch



Olive-sided Flycatcher
Photo by: Bill Hubick

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Board of Directors

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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

Many of us started feeding birds for the relaxing, uncomplicated enjoyment of watching our favorite birds up close in our backyard. But if you've been feeding birds long enough, you realize there's a lot to it. Worry about seed selection, predators, and other perils can make this activity stressful. Understanding some of the difficulties you may encounter when feeding backyard birds, and how bird feeding has evolved, can keep it relaxing and allow it to be a gratifying lifelong pursuit.

Despite warnings in the 1980's that winter feeding puts birds in danger by turning them into 'feeder addicts' with no ability to forage, studies performed by Stanley Temple and Margaret Brittingham at the University of Wisconsin over the winter of 1984-85 showed this was not the case. Their study of Black-capped Chickadees showed that survival rates were essentially the same for birds who had no access to feeders and for birds who had a feeder they were accustomed to visiting removed. Apparently the chickadees only obtained about 20-25% of their food from feeders and when the feeder was gone, they moved on to another food source. The trend now is to feed birds year round to enjoy the variety brought about by migration and to attract target birds like woodpeckers and goldfinches.

The most common seed offered to birds in North America is black-oil sunflower. Smaller than striped sunflower, it's high in energy and preferred by more birds than any other seed. Many people choose to offer other seeds, such as nyjer, peanuts, and millet, to attract specialty birds they want to see. Cornell Lab has a wealth of information on the variety of seeds and how to choose a feeder type to cater to your favorite birds at <http://feederwatch.org/learn/feeding-birds/>.

Backyard birders now don't just put out feeders for birds. Birdbaths and ponds are popular to give birds a source of water for drinking and bathing. Drippers and misters are sold in nearly every bird store and make water features more attractive to birds. Bird lovers also understand providing a clean feeder for birds is important to prevent the spread of disease. There are products available to help clean feeders, but in most cases bleach can do the job. Many products make windows more visible to birds to help prevent window strikes. Cornell has found that locating a feeder within 5 meters of your house reduces window strikes by not allowing birds to build up enough speed to cause injury. Although they're a popular pet, cats kill hundreds of millions of ground feeding and nesting birds every year. Cats should always be kept indoors and The American Bird Conservancy has created the Cats Indoors! Campaign to increase awareness of the problem. <http://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/>

All of this sounds like too much information and work just to be able to feed birds, but there are local resources ready to help. A new Wild Birds Unlimited in Lexington Park just opened and held their grand opening Sept. 11-13. Their website is <http://stmaryscounty.wbu.com/> and they are located at 46400 Lexington Village #106, Lexington Park, MD 20653. Their phone number is (301) 863-2473 and store hours are:

Mon.-Fri: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm Sat: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Sun: 11:00 – 5:00 pm

With a little knowledge, it's possible to keep it simple and just enjoy backyard birding.

For the Birds,
Michael Patterson

Black Hills Birding

By Tyler Bell

Jane Kostenko and I worked the American Birding Association's rally in Spearfish, South Dakota in June. Although we were busy with our duties keeping things running at the event, we did manage to squeeze in some birding and quite a bit of sightseeing! Having been to South Dakota before we were birding, our list started a zero and sadly ended at 99, just one shy of the century mark.

The upper mid-west has been experiencing heavier than normal rainfall the last several years. If you've ever been to western North or South Dakota, you'll know it's almost a desert with rolling short grass prairie and sage. This time, all of the sloughs, creeks and rivers were full and flowing hard. Everything was incredibly green. On top of that, there were several spectacular thunderstorms in the evenings including one with an embedded tornado that caused a tornado warning evacuation in the hotel and the proverbial freight train sound as the funnel passed less than a mile south of the hotel. Too close for comfort, that's for sure!

One of our first birding spots was a sewage treatment pond just north of town. It held a very nice assortment of ducks and shorebirds as well as a drake Cinnamon Teal. They're common further west but in the prairie region, they're still uncommon so a nice find.

The first day of the event, we piggybacked onto a shortgrass prairie trip near Buffalo, SD. We met the group stopped on the side of a farm road cutting through a cattle ranch. Baird's Sparrows were singing very nearby and we watched males carrying food to a nearby nest. We'd seen a few Baird's Sparrows in North Dakota but this was an incredibly high density of these declining sparrows. Oddly, on the other side of the road, at the foot of some small buttes, was sage habitat which contained Brewer's Sparrows. I would never have thought these two species could be so close together. There was a Ferruginous Hawk perched up on one of the buttes allowing nice scope views.

Next day, we drove through the Black Hills via Spearfish Canyon Road. There are several waterfalls along this route and they were showing nicely. The scent is something we wish we could bottle. It was something we'd never encountered before. Not sure what was growing that smelled so sweet but it was unique. We were headed to Black Fox Campground in search of Northern Three-toed Woodpecker which would have been a lower 48 bird for us and our only real target species. Of course we didn't see one but the hike up the canyon was beautiful. When we returned to our car, we ate lunch in the picnic area and a Red-naped Sapsucker flew in and landed on a stump about 15 feet from the table. Of course the camera was on the back seat of the car. D'oh!

The third day, we sort of played hooky. Badlands National Park isn't too far east of Spearfish so once the trips departed, we blasted off and spent several hours there enjoying the amazing eroded sedimentary landscape. It's quite surreal. You exit at Wall, home of the bizarre Wall Drug, which we did not visit. You drive south on rolling hills

then, BAM! everything falls away into the badlands as far as you can see. We got to see a family of Bighorn Sheep and a Coyote as well as a bunch of birds not found further west in the Black Hills including Rock Wrens which were fairly common.

If you plan on visiting the Black Hills, the rental car companies provide a map of the maze of small roads that crisscross the area. It is surprisingly detailed and accurate although not nearly as detailed as a DeLorme Atlas. But, it's free! I would highly recommend visiting the area even if your main objective isn't birding. Just don't go at the beginning of August when the Sturgis motorcycle rally bring tens of thousands of motorcycles and other visitors to the area. You literally can't get a hotel without about 50 miles of Sturgis which is the next big town east of Spearfish. And, by the way, you can see Mount Rushmore from the highway without having to pay the \$11 entrance fee ☺

Dear Mike and Board of Directors:

I am truly honored to have received the Conservationist of the Year Award for 2015, and wish sincerely to thank you and the Directors of SMAS for this completely unexpected award.

I joined National Audubon Society as a 12-year-old living in Idaho Falls, ID where my parents gave me my first pair of good binoculars, Krombach-Wetzlar 6 X 30 center focus, purchased at Cat Thompson's Sporting Goods store. I was the only person interested in birds that I knew then, so I taught myself the names of birds using Roger Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds. Needless to say, I began by seeing some birds that were not in any field guide, but gradually figured out such puzzles to be things such as female House Finches, and Brown-headed Cowbirds. I once got a very good look at a pair of wrens with their recently fledged brood, but to this day am not sure just which species they represented.

Anyway, at 16 years of age (1954) we moved to Santa Monica, California, and my NAS membership assigned me to the Los Angeles Audubon Society, where I found like-minded bird enthusiasts, and even found a fellow bird watcher in my high school. At last I had an equally enthusiastic birding companion through high school and into College. Gene Anderson, my birding buddy went on to Harvard where he launched an academic career in cultural anthropology, whereas I went to Santa Monica City College and UCLA (such was the academic and socioeconomic gap in our backgrounds) where I studied zoology and went on to become a college professor teaching various zoological and ecological subjects in biology. Through those decades, I kept my affiliation with the NAS, including my membership with SMAS beginning in 1972, when I came to St. Mary's College of Maryland to teach biology.

I intend to keep my affiliation with SMAS as long as I can, and thank you again for the honor you have given me.

I remain yours sincerely,
Ernie Willoughby

Cool Internet Links!

Swans feeding Koi!

<https://www.facebook.com/OMGParadisePage/videos/891196094236814/>

Bird Name Generator:

<https://www.facebook.com/floridabirdingtrail/posts/10153504473796043>

Penguin Cam takes a beating:

<http://tinyurl.com/n9uvx8c>

Ocean garbage patch video:

<http://tinyurl.com/qjexe62>

Cornell Lab of Ornithology has a live Condor nest cam streaming from a cliffside cavity in the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, in southern California:

http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/49/California_Condor

White-necked Jacobins take a shower!

<https://www.facebook.com/496312320509315/videos/549962888477591/>

Farming Versus Tropical Birds: Who Wins? Who Loses?

I just published a piece about a Current Biology paper that investigates two farming strategies and their impacts upon tropical birds. Basically, the study found that some farming practices have the potential to simultaneously protect natural habitats and boost farm yields -- good news for birds, tropical birds and for endangered species worldwide:

Could some farming practices benefit tropical birds?

<http://gu.com/p/4cvzp/stw>

This piece is accompanied by a photo gallery of some of the agricultural winners and losers that you may enjoy looking at:

Farms versus birds: winners & losers - in pictures

<http://gu.com/p/4c37j/stw>

as always, feel free to share widely, with friends, family and fellow bird-nerds.

GrrlScientist

Devorah Bennu, PhD

birdologist@gmail.com

<http://www.theguardian.com/science/grrlscientist>

**Check out something new and exciting on our SMAS website
Go to somdaudubon.org, click on "Join SMAS"
You can now Join, Renew or Donate using**



This great new ability to pay online was made possible by Noah Urban of mazuzu. Check out their website at mazuzu.com.

"I could not believe how easy Noah made the process of enabling the Southern Maryland Audubon Society to offer PayPal payments for members to join, renew, or donate online. He made the process a pleasure"

Lynne Wheeler, Membership Chair



Web design is a wonderful challenge of combining the needs and values of the company in a way that resonates with the target audience. From the initial concept ideas all the way to post-launch updates, we're here to help for each step of the way to a stellar web presence.

Bald and Golden Eagles Victorious: Court Invalidates 30-Year “Eagle Take” Rule Feds’ Violation of Environmental Laws Cited

(Washington, D.C., August 12, 2015) The U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, in San Jose has ruled that the Department of the Interior violated federal laws when it created a final regulation allowing wind energy and other companies to obtain 30-year permits to kill protected Bald and Golden Eagles without prosecution by the federal government. The court decision invalidates the rule.

American Bird Conservancy (ABC), a plaintiff in the lawsuit, hailed the decision. “We are pleased that the courts agreed with us that improper shortcuts were taken in the development of this rule,” said Dr. Michael Hutchins, Director of ABC’s Bird Smart Wind Energy Program. “The court found that important laws meant to protect our nation’s wildlife were not properly followed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, putting Bald and Golden Eagles at greater risk.”

The court wrote: “... substantial questions are raised as to whether the Final 30-Year Rule may have a significant adverse effect on Bald and Golden Eagle populations.”

In particular, the courts cited a lack of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). “We’re ready to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct the required NEPA analysis and formulate a better system to protect eagles from poorly-sited wind energy projects,” said Hutchins. “We must come up with a better system to assess the potential risks to birds and bats prior to a project’s siting and construction and to track and mitigate project impacts post-construction.”

The previous “eagle take” rule, adopted in 2009, provided for a maximum duration of five years for each permit to kill eagles. A key part of the court’s ruling held that: “... FWS has failed to show an adequate basis in the record for deciding not to prepare an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) — much less an EA (Environmental Assessment) — prior to increasing the maximum duration for programmatic eagle take permits by sixfold.”

“... While promoting renewable energy projects may well be a worthy goal,” the ruling continued, “it is no substitute for the [agency’s] obligations to comply with NEPA and to conduct a studied review and response to concerns about the environmental implications of major agency action. ... Accordingly, the Court holds that FWS violated NEPA’s procedural requirements and that the Final 30-Year Rule must therefore be set aside and remanded to FWS for further consideration.”

The court cited concerns that had been raised by FWS staff during development of the 30-year eagle rule, stating: “The record [in the case] bolsters the Court’s conclusion, as FWS’s failure to adequately ‘address concerns raised

by its own experts’ is cause for the Court to find a NEPA violation.”

ABC filed the lawsuit on June 19, 2014 in federal court against the Department of the Interior, alleging multiple violations of federal law in connection with the December 9, 2013 rulemaking. ABC contended that DOI violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and other statutes.

ABC believes that wind energy and other renewable energy sources can be encouraged without putting Bald and Golden Eagles, and other protected wildlife, at risk. Proper siting of turbines is critical: New ABC-funded research has revealed that more than 30,000 wind turbines have been installed in areas critical to the survival of federally-protected birds in the United States and that more than 50,000 additional turbines are planned for construction in similar areas.

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is one of ABC’s most important partners,” said ABC President George Fenwick. “We collaborate frequently, share many goals, and have enjoyed many successes together. However, FWS is encountering unprecedented financial constraints that lead to shortcuts and poor decisions. We hope that this court decision shines a light on the need for the Service to be fully empowered to do the job it is mandated to do. Our nation’s wildlife – and the agency appointed to protect it – deserve nothing less.”

ABC is represented by the Washington, D.C. public interest law firm of Meyer Glitzenstein & Eubanks.

ABC’s efforts to establish Bird Smart wind energy in the U.S. are made possible in part by the generous support of the Leon Levy Foundation.

Contact: Robert Johns, 202-888-7472,
bjohns@abcbirds.org



Bald Eagle
Photo By: Bill Hubick

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Denise Ching, Mechanicsville
Gary Clarke, Saint Leonard
Tristan Clarke, Saint Leonard

Career Once Derided As 'For The Birds' Soars Into 8th Decade

Dylan Brown, E&E reporter
Greenwire: Thursday, August 27, 2015

PATUXENT RESEARCH REFUGE, Md. -- On Chandler Robbins' first day of work here as a federal scientist, World War II was raging, FDR was in the White House, and Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" was opening on Broadway. The year was 1943.

Seventy-two years later, Robbins is still at work as a federal scientist -- albeit emeritus -- and still at Patuxent.

The 96-year-old ornithologist has played a role in moving the study of songbirds out of Ivy League labs and into the conservation mainstream. He's co-author of a major field guide to birds and still helps organize the North American Breeding Bird Survey as he has since 1966.

Shortly after he was named Patuxent's resident biologist in 1946, he was part of the all-hands-on-deck effort to assess the impacts of the pesticide DDT on birds -- work that figured in "Silent Spring," the celebrated 1962 exposé by another fabled federal scientist and Robbins' colleague, Rachel Carson.

Robbins recalls that scientific sleuthing with a shrug. "We couldn't do anything else because it was an emergency," he said.

Chandler Robbins

U.S. Geological Survey scientist emeritus Chandler Robbins, 96, in his office at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center north of Washington, D.C. Photo by Dylan Brown.

He officially retired from the U.S. Geological Survey in 2005, but the birding legend still goes to the office here on most days, entering through the door marked "Emeritus War Room" and wading through piles of paperwork and punching up reports at his computer while surrounded by mementos, plaques and certificates.

[Editor's note: to read the rest of the article, please follow the link below]

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060024010>



U.S. Geological Survey scientist emeritus Chandler Robbins, 96, in his office at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center north of Washington, D.C. Photo by Dylan Brown

Southern Maryland Audubon Society **ADOPT-A-RAPTOR**

Foster Parents Needed!!



The Southern Maryland Audubon Society supports raptor conservation and research projects in the Southern Maryland area through the "Adopt-A-Raptor" Program. The program currently includes four species: **Osprey, Barn Owl, American Kestrel and Northern Saw-whet Owl.** Each bird is banded by a licensed bird bander with a serially numbered metal band, in cooperation with the U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory. A limited number of birds are available for adoption each year!

**"Adopt-A-Nest" now available for
Osprey, Barn Owl & Kestrels!**

Adoptive "parents" will receive:

A certificate of adoption with the bird's band number, and location and date of banding.

Information on the ecology and migration patterns of the species

Any other pertinent information that may become available

Your support helps provide:

- Barn Owl Nest Boxes
- Osprey Nesting Platforms
- Kestrel Nest Boxes
- Mist Nets or Banding Supplies

Complete the form below to "Adopt-A-Raptor" with the Southern Maryland Audubon Society

*Mail completed form to: Melissa Boyle, Adopt-a-Raptor,
10455 Point Lookout Rd. Scotland, MD 20687*

Name: _____
as it should appear on Adoption Certificate

Address: _____

I wish to adopt:

_____ (# of) Osprey, \$10 each / \$25 per nest

_____ (# of) Barn Owl, \$25 each / \$50 per nest

_____ (# of) Northern Saw-whet Owl, \$30 each

_____ (# of) American Kestrel, \$35 each / \$75 per nest

Amount Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to: Southern Maryland Audubon Society

Upcoming Events

September 19 - SATURDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Point Lookout State Park, St. Mary's County

"MIGRATION ON THE POINT"

Leader: Tyler Bell

Join us at Southern Maryland's premier birding hotspot as fall migrants funnel south to cross the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. Loblolly pines, mixed hardwoods, beaches, marshes and broad water views regularly deliver a wide variety of species and occasional rarities. From Lexington Park drive south on Rte. 235 for 13 miles. Go left on Rte. 5 for 5 miles to the end. Meet leader at park entrance parking lot. Fee area. RSVP to Tyler at 301-862-4623 or tylerbell@yahoo.com.

September 26 - SATURDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert County

10540 H G Trueman Road, Lusby, MD 20657

"FALL MIGRATION"

Leader: Judy Ferris and Jan Degeneffe

Neotropical migrants should be near their peak. Warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and other songbirds. Good trails through wooded habitat and along the creek. Take Rt. 2/4 south of Prince Frederick for about 14 miles. Follow signs to the park. Meet leaders in parking lot. Facilities and fee, 3 mile round trip. RSVP by the 25th to Judy at jferris11@gmail.com or 410-326-1965.

September 27 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 11 a.m.

FIELD TRIP

Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary's County

44300 Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, MD 20636

"BIRDING THE FIELDS AND TRAILS OF SOTTERLEY"

Leaders: David Moulton and Michael Patterson

Join us for a fall excursion to this scenic and historic Patuxent River property. Bald Eagles, migrant songbirds and lingering meadowlarks and

sparrows can be found via Sotterley's trails and river views. Directions: From Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through gates to the Sotterley Plantation visitors' center parking lot. RSVP by the 26th to David at moulton.davidh@gmail.com or 240-278-4473.

October 3 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

FIELD TRIP

Cove Point Beach and Marsh, Calvert County

"SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS AND MIGRANTS"

Leader: Bob Boxwell

Cove Point beach and marsh is a unique habitat on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. A living shoreline project is helping to restore the fresh water marsh from salt water incursion. We will target sparrows, marsh inhabitants and migrants. This is a restricted area; directions will be given upon reservation, limited to ten guests. RSVP by September 30th to Bob at bobboxwell@hotmail.com or 443-404-5549.

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

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Calvert County Fairview Branch Library, Calvert County

8120 Southern Maryland Boulevard, Owings, MD 20736

"Sri Lanka – Exploration of a Biodiversity Hotspot"

Dr. Gwen Brewer, Ecologist, and George Jett, Naturalist/ Photographer Lying within the Indo-Malaya ecozone, Sri Lanka is one of 25 biodiversity hotspots in the world. Although the country is relatively small in size, it has the highest biodiversity density in Asia. Come and enjoy our favorite local Audubon pair as they present their latest travel finds. Come early at 7 p.m. for refreshments and mingling. Presentation begins at 7:30 p.m.

continued on page 7

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Please enroll me as a member of the **Southern Maryland Audubon Society**. All of my membership dollars will help support local conservation initiatives and enable us to provide southern Maryland teacher education scholarships to attend Hog Island, Audubon Camp in Maine.
- Individual/Family: ___1year \$20 ___2year \$35 ___3year \$45
 - Lifetime Membership: ___\$500
 - Donation: _____
- Please enroll me as a first time member of the **National Audubon Society**. You will automatically become a member of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society. You will receive six issues of National's award winning *Audubon Magazine*. A fraction of my dues will be received to our chapter. Your renewal information will come directly from the National Audubon Society.
- Introductory Offer: ___1 year \$20
- Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- Please enroll me for electronic delivery of our monthly newsletter *The Osprey*: ___ Email me a link to download the pdf, ___ Email me a notice it is available on the website. My email address is: _____ No thank you, please mail me a paper copy.

Please make your check payable to Southern Maryland Audubon Society or National Audubon Society.

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

GREAT NEWS!! You can now go online and join SMAS via **PayPal**. Go to our website at somdaudubon.org for this new option.

October 10 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

FIELD TRIP

Indian Head Rail Trail, Charles County

“RED-HEADS AND MIGRANTS”

Leader(s): Michael Patterson and Lynne Wheeler

There are areas on the Indian Head Rail Trail (IHRT) that provide us with one of the best hot spots in the region for Red-headed Woodpeckers. This fall trip enables you to enjoy hearing the chatter of Red-headed juveniles and of course the fun of fall warbler identification. Meet /park at the parking lot off of MD Rt. 224 and the IHRT (just east of MD Rt. 225). NO RSVP. This is an open field trip to enable last minute joining. Inquiries to Lynne at comstockel@aol.com.

October 31 – SATURDAY – 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Mallows Bay Park, Charles County

1440 Wilson Landing Road, Nanjemoy, MD 20662

“BOO!! THE GHOSTS OF MALLOWES BAY” - Youths Welcome

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler

What better way to enjoy Halloween then to visit the “Ghost Fleet” of Mallows Bay and scare up some birds! Walk with the Southern Maryland Audubon Society at Mallows Bay Park and learn about shipwrecks, archaeological sites, and wildlife all situated in a unique wetland, woodland and aquatic habitat which includes an evolving ecosystem. Come and enjoy the numerous Osprey and Bald Eagles soaring above along with a discussion of the history of the fleet. The trip will include a bird walk on the parks one mile trail where we will look for migrants, final peaks of our summer friends, and welcome in our winter residents. RSVP to Lynne up to 10 a.m. Saturday at comstockel@aol.com or 301-751-8097.

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

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary's County

37600 New Market Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

“Behind the Scenes of the MD/DC Records Committee”

Phil Davis, Secretary, MD/DC Records Committee

Phil Davis has been the Secretary of the MD/DC Records Committee for 20 years. In his presentation, he first addresses some obligatory “dull” records committee topics, including the history, role, and functions of the committee. Next, he segues into describing the committee’s “historical canvass” and shares intriguing images of and anecdotes about some of our region’s more unusual and interesting records. Finally, in a masterful crescendo, he divulges some behind the scenes “dirty little secrets” with some tales of MD and DC’s little-known vintage records that will eventually comprise the committee’s future publication, The History of the Rare Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Come early at 7 p.m. for refreshments. Presentation begins at 7:30 p.m.

November 8 – SUNDAY - 8 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP

Myrtle Grove WMA, Charles County

5625 Myrtle Grove Road, La Plata, MD 20646

“BIRDING FOR ALL LEVELS” – Youths Welcome

Leader: Fred Burggraf

Easy walking. Great for beginning birders! Diverse habitat for hawks, sparrows, woodpeckers, and other fall and winter residents. 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 one mile. Meet in the parking lot near the lake. RSVP by the 7th to Fred at fburggraf0625@gmail.com or 301-934-8042.

November 22 – SUNDAY - 8:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

FIELD TRIP

Mattawoman Wildlands, Marbury, Charles County

“EARLY WATERFOWL AND LATE MIGRANTS ON THE GEORGE WILMOT TRAIL”

Leader(s): Gwen Brewer

This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society and the Southern MD Audubon Society. We usually expect large concentrations of waterfowl on the Mattawoman Creek, along with songbirds, woodpeckers (some red-headed), and raptors. Dr. Gwen Brewer is one of our top waterfowl identifiers with great eagle eyes! Meet time/place: 7:30 am at Burger King (3165 Marshall Hall Rd, Bryans Road, MD 20616), on right at MD 210/227. Bring waterproof shoes or low boots, and dress for possible wind. Be prepared for a one-mile walk to and from the head of the trail, and then a half-mile walk on uneven forest trail. RSVP by the 21st to Gwen Brewer at 3wigeons@verizon.net or 410-741-9129.

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

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Washington Square Community Center, Charles County

101 Kennedy Place, La Plata, MD 20646

Book Presentation - “The Miracle Pond”

MIDDLETON EVANS – Maryland Photographer

Come and enjoy an evening with one of Maryland’s most noted photographers. Middleton will give a presentation of his newly released 344 page book featuring nearly 800 photographs of nature’s finest. Years in the making, Middleton captures amazing nature all at Baltimore’s Patterson Park. He documents numerous aspects of the Wood Duck’s life cycle, waterbirds, migrating Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, songbirds, and raptors. Come and enjoy an evening of holiday refreshments and a journey of discovery from this amazing urban park and dramatic action shot photographer. This newly released book is a great holiday gift idea!! Come early at 7 p.m. for refreshments and socializing. Presentation begins at 7:30 p.m.

EDITOR: Tyler Bell E-mail: jtylerbell@yahoo.com

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.

2013-2014 Officers

President, Michael Patterson (301-752-5763)

Vice-President, Bob Lukinic (301-283-6317)

Secretary, Lynne Wheeler (301-743-3236)

Treasurer, Will Daniel (240-518-8006)