

# The Osprey

Newsletter of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl  
Photo by: Bill Hubick

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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

## President's Perch

This time of year brings talk of turkey, fall colors, and migrating birds. Many of us will sit down to a traditional turkey meal for Thanksgiving. You may have heard that Ben Franklin wanted the Wild Turkey to be our national bird and appear on the Great Seal of the new United States. But it's a myth that he supported making it our national symbol and lost out to eagle supporters in Congress. Franklin was part of the first committee, along with Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, appointed to come up with a design for the seal. But the three patriots had other ideas for the seal and none of them included an eagle. They finally agreed on a drawing of the woman Liberty holding a shield to represent the states, but Congress wasn't thrilled with the design. William Barton, a Philadelphia artist, produced a new design that included a Golden Eagle, but Congress wanted a symbol that was uniquely American. On June 20, 1782, they approved the original design depicting the Bald Eagle with arrows and olive branches in its talons. The Bald Eagle was officially adopted as the emblem of the United States five years later in 1787.

After the 1782 decision Franklin wrote to his daughter, "For my own part, I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country. He is a bird of bad moral character. He does not get his living honestly." He went on to call the eagle lazy and described how it would perch near the Osprey (which he called fishing hawk), waiting for the opportunity to steal a fish intended for the Osprey's mate and young. Later in the letter, he refers to one of the original eagle representations, saying: "I am on this account not displeased that the figure is not known as a Bald Eagle, but looks more like a turkey. For the truth the turkey is in comparison a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America." Ben Franklin may have actually been referring to European turkeys that came to North America with English colonists and were used for food. A male Wild Turkey will usually run or fly away from you, whereas a male domestic turkey may charge. We don't know whether Franklin could tell a wild from a domestic turkey. A Wild Turkey has chestnut-brown tail tips while a barnyard turkey has white tail tips.

Between now and Thanksgiving, SMAS has a full schedule of programs and bird walks featuring fall colors and migrants (and seeing a turkey is always possible). On Halloween, we'll be leading a special trip to Mallow's Bay to learn about shipwrecks, archaeological sites, and wildlife situated in a unique wetland, woodland, and aquatic habitat. On Nov. 4, Phil Davis from the Maryland/DC Records Committee will discuss the role of the committee, tell stories about some of the more unusual records, and reveal vintage records that will be part of a forthcoming publication, *The History of the Rare Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. Our field trips in November will feature fall colors and interesting birds as we travel through the Mattawoman Wildlands and to Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management Area. You can find more information about our programs and trips here in *The Osprey*. Happy Thanksgiving!

For the Birds,  
Michael Patterson

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## Share Nature: Educator's Week

### Hog Island

by Lori Cole

The soft images of boats in the fog; briny scent in the air; the sounds of the water lapping on the Maine shore; and the Chickadee's morning call - began an inspiring and memorable week this summer. I was privileged enough to receive a full scholarship from the Southern Maryland Audubon Society to attend the Hog Island Audubon Camp, Share Nature: Educator's Week, July 19 – 24. Hog Island is located in Muscongus Bay in Bremen, Maine. Mabel Todd purchased most of the island and saved it from lumbering. It was a wildlife sanctuary for people to appreciate nature, but also a place she could write. Her daughter Millicent Todd Bingham, along with the National Audubon Society, conserved it in 1935 and has provided nature educational camps since 1936. The 330 acres of Hog Island is home to over 150 species of birds, of which the camp recorded at least 68 species collectively for the week.

As an educator, my impressions of the week will clearly indicate how well the program was designed for educators. After we arrived on the island, settled in, and were divided into four groups (Eider, Guillemot, Parula, and Tern), we began the first evening with a social hour that included an "ice-breaker" activity – personality bingo. The night activity was a habitat skit, where each group was given a habitat and we had to act it out without any talking. We didn't receive an itinerary for the program and this was a little unsettling and freeing at the same time. We would find out what the next day's itinerary was, generally, at the evening meal. Then you had to make a choice of which topic you wanted. No matter how many times we asked, if they would be repeated, the answer was "we'll see". None repeated. Even our seating arrangements during meals allowed for networking and additional instruction. The instructors had assigned seats at one end of each table and we were to switch our seats at each meal. This of course, allowed one to meet other participants, but also talk in more detail about a lesson with the instructor, or help to determine what lessons you wanted to attend. Some of the programs I selected, during the week, included Birds 101, Bird Sleuthing - Habitat Connections, Geology, and Story Telling with Images and Sound. There were optional early morning and night programs that I participated in. The morning activities included photography and bird banding, while the night activities were a sensory night hike, viewing moth collecting system, and viewing Saturn's rings. Of course there were scheduled evening programs which included sing-a-longs, skits, 2 speakers (Stephen Kress (Director of Puffin Project) and Dr. Chandra Taylor Smith (Vice President of Community In Conservation and Education with the National Audubon Society), and a trio of rotated activities (bioluminescence, astronomy, and music).

There were two all days trips, one was a boat trip out to Eastern Egg Rock with lunch and a hike on Harbor Island; the other was a hike around Hog Island. The Eiders (my

group), and Parula, went on the first boat trip out to Eastern Egg Rock. This was where puffins were reintroduced, so we not only spotted Atlantic Puffins, but Arctic, and Roseate Terns, Black Guillemot, Common Murre, and several gull species, despite the fog. I am also impressed by the years of dedication Stephen Kress and Pete Salmansohn have given to bring the puffins back. Stephen and other researchers use the decoy and recording method to help other species of birds return to native locations. Researchers and students continue monitoring the current 148 pairs by spending days on end sitting in a blind. When I got my photos back, I realized that the bird blinds on the island we occupied were with researchers. After lunch, again choices to take the adventurous hike around the island; rambling naturalist hike; short hike to the top of the island; or my choice, the edible hike. The habitats we explored included spruce/fir forest, freshwater marsh, rocky shoal, and field. Being an edible hike, we tasted goose berries, raspberries, and mustard radish root, just to name a few. We climbed through a cave and in a field, we spent time listening to a variety of birds like the Gray Catbird, warblers, and thrushes. We had a little extra adventure when we arrived at an unfamiliar shore, but we back tracked and followed the fairy houses and arrived safely at the boat.

I chose a spiritual and artistic insight into nature hike of Hog Island and during the afternoon was spent time on a tidal exploration. At the end of this hike, we sat under the trees quietly and reflected on what we had learned. What I realized was that I spent the whole week taking in all the lessons I could, that I didn't just relax and take in the nature.

All of the activities that were offered became overwhelming at times, but there were stand out ideas that stay with me today. The idea that I don't need to identify bird species, but recognizing body features, their location, and behavior is a beginning in understanding bird identification. We used familiar teaching techniques in various ways, such as, geology charades, migration obstacle course, habitat skit, sensory hike in the dark, and bird bingo. Above all, the enthusiasm that everyone wanted to share ideas and connect.

It also takes dedication on the part of the talented instructors, Pete Salmansohn the director, and volunteers that kept us fed and in clean housing, to make this camp such a success, my warmest thanks to all of you. When I applied for the SMAS scholarship, I hoped to have a better understanding of birds and to see puffins. This far exceeded my expectations and I want thank SMAS again for this wonderful experience. I strongly encourage others to experience what I have. There are ways to get financial assistance, like the scholarship I received, to help make this happen. Since I have returned, I have done a program on birds for my toddler program and pre-k program. I also have a Homeschool Day event at the end of October on Migration which will incorporate birds. In the near future, I will use what I have learned to improve our marsh programs at the Calvert Marine Museum.

## Hog Island Scholarship

The Southern Maryland Audubon Society is now accepting applications from Southern Maryland teachers, naturalists, and environmental educators for a scholarship to attend a summer educational program on Hog Island in Maine. The scholarship, which is valued at approximately \$1,000, will cover tuition, room, and board. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the educator. Recipients will be able to choose either the "Field Ornithology" workshop to be held June 12-17, 2016 or the "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week" workshop to be held July 17-22, 2016.

SMAS has a long history of raising funds in order to award these types of scholarships to local educators. Past winners have returned from their experience truly appreciative of the chance to learn from knowledgeable staff in a unique environment. For more information about these experiences, visit

<http://projectpuffin.org/OrnithCamps.html>

Applicants must be educators currently teaching in Southern Maryland. To apply, please send a one page letter explaining:

- 1) How you will benefit from the Hog Island opportunity
- 2) How you will use the workshop experience in your teaching to support the SMAS mission.

Your signed letter must contain your mailing address, email address, and phone number. Along with this letter, please include a signed letter of recommendation from your immediate supervisor describing your interests, abilities, and how the experience will benefit your organization and audience. Scholarship recipients will be required to submit a written report of their experiences within a month of their return. The deadline for applications is February 12, 2016. Please send application documents as attachments to:

Nicole Patterson, Education Committee Chair, SMAS  
[smaseducationchair@gmail.com](mailto:smaseducationchair@gmail.com)

## Sotterley Plantation, September 27 by David Moulton

The fields and forest trails of Sotterley Plantation continued to provide excellent St. Mary's County birding on field trip day. David Moulton and Mike Patterson lead a group of 8, all pleased to see that the promised rain didn't fall and the winds stayed light.

American Redstarts in the parking lot catalpas gave hope of a fallout, but while the day turned out to be very "birdy", with a total of 47 species, the only other warbler was a bright yellow, tail-flicking Palm Warbler cattle pond fence. Eastern Meadowlarks and Savannah Sparrows popped up out of the meadows. The spectacular Sotterley gardens yielded a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at the red salvia, and the Eastern Bluebird population has bounced back nicely from last winter's deadly freeze.

SMAS appreciates its collaboration with Sotterley Plantation, leading to increasing awareness of the excellent birding opportunities on this National Historic Landmark property and to the interest of Sotterley's wonderful staff in creating a variety of bird-friendly habitats and plant species.

## Calvert Marine Museum Home School Day, Wednesday, October 28

**Time:** 10 am – 2:30pm, scheduled activities begin at 10:30.

**Title:** Explores Migration

**Description:** Birds, stingrays, eels, and crabs are just a few animals that migrate to the Chesapeake Bay. Let's discover why animals move seasonally and where they go while they hear stories, make binoculars, play games, and other hands-on activities. Calvert Marine Museum is partnering with the Southern Maryland Audubon Society in our Fall Homeschool Day. Come meet Dr. Ernest Willoughby, an Ornithologist with SMAS.

**Home School Day:** Families of home schooled children come to participate in hands-on educational activities. The families bring all school aged children.

**Activities:** Can be either on-going or scheduled. Generally have an older and younger version of an activity or specify for older (5th -9th) or younger (pre k – 4th).

**Possible On-going activities:** stations set up around the museum and grounds.

- Craft: Make binoculars
- Migration Game – On-going - older/younger  
Obstacle course with various problems migrating animals have on their journey. Change the animal/change the obstacles.
- Which Way Do We Go? – older/younger  
An activity that uses a migration map and explores why animal relocate seasonally, many head south and some go north.

**Possible scheduled activities:** set up usually in the Harms Gallery or wherever appropriate. Many of these activities are scheduled twice, so groups aren't too big.

- Story Time – very young kids  
Read various stories about animals that migrate.
- Bird 101 –older kids  
You don't have to identify species to begin identifying birds. Observing body shape, what they are doing, and where they are located can help in bird identification.
- Meet an Ornithologist (older kids) - Q & A with an ornithologist.



Eastern Bluebird  
Photo by: Bill Hubick

## NOAA: Areas in Wisconsin and Maryland identified as possible national marine sanctuaries



Agency seeks public comment on Lake Michigan, Potomac River maritime heritage proposals

Left: Aerial view of Mallows Bay (Photo: Don Shomette). Right: A diver swims over the two masted schooner, Walter B. Allen. Left: Aerial view of Mallows Bay (Photo: Don Shomette). Right: A diver swims over the two masted schooner, Walter B. Allen.

During the 2015 Our Ocean Conference in Valparaiso, Chile, President Barack Obama today announced that, for the first time since 2000, two new national marine sanctuaries have been identified by NOAA for possible designation under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. NOAA is now seeking comment on the proposals.

In Wisconsin, an 875-square mile area of Lake Michigan, with waters extending from Port Washington to Two Rivers received tremendous support from the community, and was identified for possible designation. The nominated area contains a collection of 39 known shipwrecks, 15 of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mallows Bay in Maryland is a 14-square mile area of the tidal Potomac River, adjacent to Charles County. Nearly 200 vessels spanning from the Revolutionary War through the present are found in the area, including the remains of the largest “Ghost Fleet” of World War I wooden steamships built for the U.S. Emergency Fleet, which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Both sites were nominated as a national marine sanctuary through the sanctuary nomination process with broad community support.

“For the first time in twenty years, communities can bring forth proposals for consideration to be added to our nation’s system of marine sanctuaries,” said Holly Bamford, Ph.D., assistant NOAA administrator for the National Ocean Service performing the duties of the assistant secretary of commerce for conservation and management. “The Mallows Bay-Potomac River and Wisconsin-Lake Michigan nominations demonstrate this new bottom-up approach, which ensures communities lead in identifying and protecting their valuable coastal and marine areas. We look forward to hearing from the public as these two nominations go through the process.”

The public is invited to submit comments until Jan. 15 through the Federal eRulemaking Portal, [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (docket number for Mallows Bay-Potomac River is NOAA-NOS-2015-0111 and docket number for Wisconsin-Lake Michigan is NOAA-NOS-2015-0112). An official notice will be published in the Federal Register later this week.

Comments may also be mailed if postmarked by Jan. 15.

Comments on Mallows Bay-Potomac River should be sent to: Paul Orlando  
Chesapeake Bay Regional Coordinator  
ONMS Northeast and Great Lakes Region  
c/o NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office  
410 Severn Ave, Suite 207-A, Annapolis, MD 21403

NOAA will also be hosting public meetings to answer questions and gather public input at the following locations:

Maryland: November 4, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.  
La Plata--Charles County Government Building Auditorium  
200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland

November 10, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.  
Annapolis Maritime Museum  
723 Second Street, Annapolis, Maryland

Following this comment period, NOAA will develop a draft environmental impact statement, draft management plan and potential regulations for each site, which will then be available for public review. After reviewing those comments, NOAA will then make a final decision on the proposed action.

More information on the two proposed sites can be found at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/mallows-bay/>

Additional photos can be found at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/press/mallows-bay-and-wisconsin/>



### 116<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count

**Dec 20 – Port Tobacco, MD**

Compiler: Gwen Brewer, 410-741-9129 or [3wigeons@verizon.net](mailto:3wigeons@verizon.net)

**Dec 27 – Point Lookout, MD**

Compiler: Bob Boxwell, 443-404-5549 or [bobboxwell@hotmail.com](mailto:bobboxwell@hotmail.com)

**Jan 3 – Fort Belvoir, VA and MD**

Compiler: Kurt Gaskill, 703-768-2172 or [kurtcapt87@verizon.net](mailto:kurtcapt87@verizon.net)  
MD Sector Leader: Lynne Wheeler, 301-743-3236 or [comstockel@aol.com](mailto:comstockel@aol.com)

**Jan 3 – Patuxent River, MD**

Compiler: Andy Brown, 410-535-5327 or [brownaj@co.cal.md.us](mailto:brownaj@co.cal.md.us)

**Patuxent River NAS Field Trip**  
by Kyle Rambo

On Sunday, 13 September 2015, nine SMAS members joined leader Kyle Rambo for a half day field trip onto the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, which was advertised as a search for "grasspipers." Gray skies and patches of drizzle gave way to some decent weather as the crew piled into a government van (AKA - portable birding blind) and took off in search of their target species -- the Buff-breasted Sandpiper. It didn't take long to track down 3 juveniles of this beautiful shorebird -- a sandpiper that prefers foraging in short grass rather than along sandy beaches or mudflats, thus the nickname "grasspiper." Individuals were very cooperative and photogenic, offering eye-popping looks at distances as close as 10-15 yards! The birds became quite comfortable feeding or preening in close proximity to the van.

Buff-breasted Sandpipers migrate in small numbers through the Atlantic coastal states, with airports and sod farms being some of the best places to see them. The airfield at Pax River has been a reliable location to observe them for many years, since their discovery there in the 1990's. Also seen on the airfield were large numbers of Killdeer and Horned Larks, as well as some Eastern Meadowlarks -- all standard "airport birds."

This time of year is also the peak season for Bald Eagles, which accumulate here as a result of post-breeding dispersal and early migration. The group saw an estimated total of 56 Bald Eagles at various locations around the installation.

After departing the airfield, the leader escorted participants to a number of different areas around the coast, in search of other shorebirds and waterbirds, although shorebirds were difficult to find. A lone Solitary Sandpiper represented the only other representative of the *Charadriidae* family of birds. A large number of gulls and terns roosting on the Goose Creek fishing pier gave everyone an opportunity to study their various plumages, including a large number of Common Terns, with a few Forster's Terns mixed in. A total of 58 species were tallied for the morning outing. It was a great trip with a wonderful group of very knowledgeable and sociable birders!

For a full checklist, see this participant's eBird list:  
<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25014039>



Buff-breasted sandpiper  
Photo by: Bill Schmoker

*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*

## Access Matters: Baltimore Booby-Viewing

What follows is a report on a rarity that almost topped our front-running Slate-throated Redstart this month. This particular story, however, has an additional happy access lesson.

On 5 September, a Brown Booby was reported by Nico Sarbanes near the famous Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor. Then, nothing. But almost two weeks later, two Brown Boobies - an adult and an immature - were discovered elsewhere in the harbor, by birder and water-taxi captain, Deborah Rowan. The pair of Brown Boobies could be observed from shore, perching alongside cormorants on a rope between two ships, the Denebola and the Antares, at Locust Point. One problem was that the two cargo ships were part of the U.S. Maritime Administration's Ready Reserve Fleet, and security issues were involved. Another problem was that the ships were about a half-mile away from the closest land-based point of observation!

Soon however, birders came up with ways to obtain better views of the boobies. Access was able to be gained via regular local harbor taxis, some of which would make slight detours to allow birders some better looks. Other birders used kayaks to get closer or even obtained rides on boats belonging to generous strangers! This story - with fine photos - is recounted in The Baltimore Sun:

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/features/green/blog/bs-md-brown-booby-20150921-story.html>

On 20 September, arrangements were also made to transport visitors through the Downtown Sailing Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing sailing to those who would normally not be able to experience sailing

due to a lack of means, disability, or other factors. The DSC made a number of trips to show visitors the boobies in exchange for contributions to support their work.

The two Brown Boobies remained through 27 September. And the adult, at least, was observed through the end of the month.

This is another fine example of a way to facilitate birder access in a way that works for everyone.

Birding Community E-bulletin

Paul J. Baicich 410-992-9736 [paul.baicich@verizon.net](mailto:paul.baicich@verizon.net)

## Cool Internet Links!

Migratory Connectivity Project (Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center initiative): You may appreciate important natural history information (and an initiative that, hopefully, leads to preservation/conservation of bird populations) present at: <http://www.migratoryconnectivityproject.org/>

Here's a resource/link to note which bird species are protected by a federal law: the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), within the USFWS Migratory Bird Program:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/RegulationsPolicies/mbta/MBTANDX.HTML>

NASA's Earth Observatory ran a very interesting, brief article on combining citizen science, conservation groups and satellite data to create "pop-up" habitats that are just-in-time for migratory birds. This currently is for the Pacific Flyway. I'd love to know if anything like this is happening or planned in our region.

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=86685&src=eo-iotd>

### 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](http://somdaudubon.org) for this new option.

## Upcoming Events

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 than 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](mailto: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

**EDITOR: Tyler Bell E-mail: [jtylerbell@yahoo.com](mailto: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)**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### Kudos!

Our intrepid photographer, George Jett, has set the bar high by obtaining his 400th bird photographed in Maryland! It was a Reddish Egret, the second record for Maryland, and the only one that stuck around long enough for anyone else to see, at Skimmer Island in Ocean City. This followed #399, Brown Booby (see accompanying article), by less than two weeks. Congrats, George!

