SMAS held its Annual Meeting and Picnic at a Calvert County gem, Kings Landing Park in Huntingtown, Maryland on July 31, 2016. Many thanks go to Andy Brown and the Calvert Nature Society for providing such a wonderful venue at Pavilion I. It was fabulous and we express our sincere gratitude!

While we had to reschedule our picnic from the original date of June 5 due to a forecast of severe thunderstorms, we were thankful that the weather cooperated this time. While hot we did not have the brutal humidity that had been hovering previously in our area. We enjoyed good ol’ fried chicken and tasty side dishes and many members seemed to enjoy seeing each other again. I highly recommend readers visit this park if you never have. They have a large pier on the Patuxent River, kayak, canoe, and stand-up paddle board rentals, a lovely 2500 square foot rental hall, and equestrian facilities. The hiking trails lead you to informative wayside exhibits funded by the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. This park has a history stretching back to Captain John Smith’s exploration and earlier and would be a great place to look for upcoming fall migrants!

After our potluck lunch members enjoyed buying Cardinal Flower and Butterfly Weed native plants, various nature oriented and birding books, and then we moved on to conduct chapter business. Mike Callahan, Raptor Conservation Chair and past president presented the Raptor Conservationist of the Year Award to Hallie and Karen Ferguson. Hallie was assisted by our Raptor Conservation Committee earlier in the year for her project on the American Kestrel. The project enabled Hallie to achieve her Girl Scout Gold Star Award, and resulted in her mother Karen becoming very active in supporting SMAS events throughout the year. Our awardees have recently moved to Florida and will be greatly missed by all. Mike also presented the award to Steve and Janet Sumner, owners of Founders Tavern & Grille, Pasadena, MD. Their help in providing food for the Barn Owl and Burger event in June made it one of the best owl banding affairs ever.

At every annual meeting we also present our Conservationist of the Year Award. This year the award went to Carol Ghebelian, one of the society’s early members, joining in 1979, only 8 years after its inception in 1971. Carol has recently moved out of southern Maryland to Upper Marlboro and has retired as an active board member. She has been such a vital member, mentor, and provider of ideas the board even created a new committee designation in her honor months back, SMAS Special Advisor. She may move but she will still guide our flock as we continue in our journey to achieve our mission. Carol was presented a framed award certificate and a beautiful sterling silver and garnet pendant necklace depicting birds building a heart shaped nest. This was appropriate since she helped build our nest for many years and the award was earned many times over. It was my pleasure to participate in presenting it along with Mike Callahan.

Continued on page 2
Our president, Michael Patterson was unable to attend the picnic so the election of officers will be conducted at our first fall season of Monthly Meeting Programs. We are very excited about the upcoming events; the first program on September 7 will be held at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp and will be about the American Kestrel, presented by Gene Groshon, Naturalist. We are always happy to see attention to this small and exquisite raptor whose population has declined drastically across the country and happy to promote its attention. The program line up continues strong, on October 5 we have Dave Brinker presenting about Brown Pelicans of the Chesapeake Bay at Flag Ponds, November it is Dan Small from Washington College educating us on his research project at the Chester River Research Station on native grassland restoration, management and avian studies at the Holiday Inn, La Plata. Our final fall program on December 7 will be Greg Kearns presenting “Ospreys on the Patuxent” and will feature many Osprey gifts our attendees can purchase for the holidays. This program will be held in Benedict, near the Patuxent River. We look forward to seeing everyone at these upcoming programs and hope we are providing the avian and environmental education that you expect and enjoy.

Hope to see you soon!!

Lynne Wheeler - Secretary, Membership Chair

Cool Internet Links!

Building a Spider Web: https://www.facebook.com/harikatasarimlaritr/videos/935420906557057/

Ladybug Flight In Slow Motion: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S77SYgOZXfg


Frigatebirds Soar For Weeks http://tinyurl.com/h7ou9cg

When Auklets Become Amulets

I thought the sender was being witty when they recently referred to some pelagic birds as amulets and murders. Then when the autocorrecting was mentioned, changing auklets to amulets and murres to murders, it reminded me that when I write Choptank it gets autocorrected to Shoptalk, saltmarsh to salt marsh, etc.

Also reminds me that the late Bob Smart used to create “rhymers”. Bob was a protégé of Ludlow Griscom, consorted with such New England glitterati as Davis Finch. The only rhymer of his I remember goes like this:


Bob had what looked to be conventional, black, porro prism binoculars. But one of the optic lenses unscrewed. His “barnocular” could then be filled with … whiskey, gin, whatever. Once on the ‘Blue Nose’ ferry [editor’s note: the Blue Nose ran from Bar Harbor, Maine to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia] I saw him take a sip from this. A young boy saw this and said to his mother: “That man just took a drink out of his binoculars.” Later on during that ride Bob made faces, to their delight, to young children also on board.

Harry Armistead, Philadelphia
Southwest North Dakota In Early June
by Tyler Bell

Jane Kostenko and I were visiting her family in central North Dakota in late May to early June. Over the weekend in between, we visited the southwest part of the state with her sister’s family. The eastern part of North Dakota is stereotypically flat but once you get to the area around the Missouri River, it becomes rolling hills. The southwest part is dominated by badlands features. Theodore Roosevelt National Park is just to the north of Medora, a town that Teddy Roosevelt spent time between growing up in New York state and his terms as president. TRNP has two units. The south unit, near Medora, and the north unit which is closer to Watford City.

Jane and I hadn’t been in the north unit for decades. The main road runs the length of the park, about 14 miles, running through rolling prairie and badlands formations. Buffalo wander here and there, often in the road. North Dakota is a place where east meets west, bird-wise, so you can see an interesting array of birds, especially when you’re living in Maryland. Wild Turkeys and Sharp-tailed Grouse, Spotted but not Eastern Towhee (I still prefer Rufous-sided Towhee!), Mountain Bluebird, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow and Lark Sparrow, and Indigo Bunting and Lazuli Bunting. If you’ve never seen a Lazuli Bunting, they are a stunning bird. We saw these throughout the SW area.

As we headed from the north unit to the south unit, the wind began to pick up. Just to the east of Medora is the Painted Canyon overlook. The wind was blowing so hard that it was hard to stand up. We were not optimistic about trying for Common Poorwills in the south unit after dusk. But, we went anyway. Thankfully, the wind often dies down as the sun sets and this was the case. Still, no poorwills. We’ve looked unsuccessfully for Common Poorwill in ND several times. We still had one more night to try for them but it’s always nice to get one in the bag first thing.

The next day, we drove south and east of Medora to bird in the Burning Coal Vein area. This is fairly unique in ND because Ponderosa Pines are quite uncommon and mostly concentrated in this relatively small area. As we were driving south, we encountered road construction. There are two seasons in many states: winter and road construction. As we were waiting for an escort vehicle, we noticed a sign that pointed off to the west down a gravel road. Burning Coal Vein 24 miles. The route we had planned was substantially longer so we gambled with this shortcut. At some point as we meandered through uncharted territory, the signage failed. We came to a fork and hoped that the left road, which appeared to have fresher tire tracks than the right road, would get us there. Luckily, it did! Birding wasn’t our goal here, geology was. The geology of this area was very different from other parts of ND that we’ve visited. And the trees in the area of the burning coal vein apparently only grow where there is radiant heat from the burning coal underground. Columnar Juniper, I believe, is what we found on a sign as we hiked up onto a butte.

There was a bit of a breeze remaining from the previous afternoon’s gale and it felt nice as the temps climbed. Unlike the miserable weather we’ve been having here in southern Maryland this summer, ND is usually fairly dry. Still, after hiking for a while, we were happy to head back toward the AC in the car. Jane spotted another sign that we had somehow overlooked as we pulled into the circular parking lot. As we read it, a Rock Wren popped up on a rock below us. We had seen many of them in Badlands National Park last summer when we were working the American Birding Association’s rally in Spearfish, South Dakota but we rarely find them in ND, and only in the southwest part of the state. As we both watched the wren with our binoculars, a Common Poorwill called several times nearby. Our jaws practically dropped to the ground! That truly made our day.

So, that evening, instead of having to stake out poorwills in a canyon or two, we took a leisurely drive through the south unit with Jane’s sister. As the sun was setting, we came upon a herd of wild horses. One colt was nursing from its mother in the middle of the road right in front of us. We just turned off the car and waited until they were done. We also encountered more Buffalo, some Mule Deer, and Pronghorn Antelope.

If you’ve never been to either unit of TRNP, I’d highly recommend it. There is a nice campground inside of the park where you can tent camp or park an RV. It’s really neat to be sleeping and hear the grunts of Buffalo as they wander around in the dark grazing! And, once Labor Day has come and gone, the park is almost vacant.

Burning Coal Vein, ND
Photo by Jane Kostenko
Baltimore the Snowy Owl

I just have to toot our horn a little here—the Baltimore Bird Club purchased the transmitter ($3,000) that was placed on Baltimore’s back—hence his name. This is a great video to watch. There is also some more information about Baltimore’s journeys on Project Snowstorm’s website.

Go this URL and check out “Baltimore: The Rest of the Story”.

http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/blog-posts/page/2/

Joan Cwi
President, Baltimore Bird Club
Baltimore, MD
jafsc@verizon.net

2016 GBBC Summary

Each year we wonder if the bird watchers of the world can possibly top their past performances in the Great Backyard Bird Count. And each year we’re amazed! The 2016 GBBC was epic. An estimated 163,763 bird watchers from more than 130 countries joined in. Participants submitted 162,052 bird checklists reporting 5,689 species—more than half the known bird species in the world and 599 more species than last year!

This was the 19th year for the event which is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society with partner Bird Studies Canada. The information gathered by tens of thousands of volunteers helps track the health of bird populations on a global scale using the eBird online checklist program.

Before we hit some of the highlights of this year’s count, let’s crunch a few more numbers for our popular Top 10 lists. Note that some of the numbers may still change very slightly if checklists for the GBBC dates are added through eBird.

Top 10 most frequently reported species:
(number of GBBC checklists reporting this species):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Number of Checklists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dark-eyed Junco</td>
<td>63,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Cardinal</td>
<td>62,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mourning Dove</td>
<td>49,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downy Woodpecker</td>
<td>47,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Jay</td>
<td>45,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Goldfinch</td>
<td>43,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Finch</td>
<td>41,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufted Titmouse</td>
<td>38,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-capped Chickadee</td>
<td>37,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Crow</td>
<td>37,277</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data as of March 2, 2016

Top 10 most numerous species:
(sum of how many individuals were observed across all GBBC checklists):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Number of Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Snow Goose</td>
<td>1,405,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Goose</td>
<td>1,166,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Starling</td>
<td>624,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Coot</td>
<td>515,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallard</td>
<td>510,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark-eyed Junco</td>
<td>487,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ring-billed Gull</td>
<td>447,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-winged Blackbird</td>
<td>437,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Goldfinch</td>
<td>429,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Robin</td>
<td>375,760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data as of March 2, 2016
To read the rest of the article, follow this link:
http://tinyurl.com/gbbc2016data

Lewes, Delaware Overnight Pelagic Trips

For those people interested in reading more about the trip that sailed on June 4, click on the link below and see photos. Alex Lamoraeux (one of the trip leaders) posted a write-up on his blog summarizing the trip.


There is another overnight trip, hopefully with enough participants soon after this issue goes to press:

August 20-21, 2016 Lewes, DE 18-hour Overnight
Only 18 people signed up (as of 7/28/2016) need 36 to sail!
See the link below for more information:

http://paulagics.com/?page_id=27
Book Notes: Woodpeckers

We are happy to review another “Peterson Reference Guide” from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and it’s another good one. The title is Woodpeckers of North America by Stephen A. Shunk. This handsome reference covers 23 native woodpecker species and is enhanced by over 250 fine photos.

The book opens with a highly informative Introduction, which covers such essential topics as the anatomy and adaptations of woodpeckers, from their unique tongues to their extraordinary tails; woodpecker behavior and ecology; and a thoughtful discussion of woodpecker conservation and management issues. Indeed, Shunk has a particular sensitivity to the threats facing this family of birds.

The expected species accounts are very thorough, more so in fact than in many of the other “family” books in this series, and also quite readable. You may want to start by sampling accounts for particularly interesting and unique species, particularly species such as Lewis’s Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, or Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

You will not be disappointed.

You can access all the past E-bulletins on the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) website:

http://refugeassociation.org/news/birding-bulletin/

Birding Community E-bulletin
Paul J. Baicich
410-992-9736
paul.baicich@verizon.net

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: Carole Schnitzler, Adopt-a-Raptor, 3595 Silk Tree Court, Waldorf, MD  20602

Name:_______________________________________
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

as it should appear on Adoption Certificate
2016 Fall Field Trips and Programs

September 7 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, Calvert County
2880 Grays Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678
“KESTRELS: JET FIGHTERS OF THE FIELD”
GENE GROSHON, Naturalist, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
The American Kestrel is a native falcon known by many as the “Sparrowhawk”. Once a common bird in our area their numbers are now in decline. We will discuss the life history of these beautiful birds and how we are trying to bring back their numbers. Mingling and refreshments start at 7 p.m.

September 10 – SATURDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert County
9500 H.G. Trueman Parkway, Lusby, MD 20657
“FALL MIGRATION”
Leaders: Judy Ferris and Jan Degeneffe
Neotropical migrants should be near their peak. WE expect to see 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 to Judy at 410-326-1965 or jferris11@gmail.com

September 11 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary’s County
21866 Cedar Point, Patuxent River, MD 20670
“GRASSPIPERS”
Leader: Kyle Rambo
This trip will visit some excellent grassland habitat on restricted access runways. Target species include Buff-breasted Sandpiper and American Golden-Plover. Meet in the parking lot at NAS Gate #1. We are limited to 10 participants, and PRE-REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY – contact kyle.rambo@navy.mil, 301-757-0005. Open only to US citizens. Must bring a photo ID.

September 17 – SATURDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Point Lookout State Park, St. Mary’s County
11175 Point Lookout Road, Scotland, MD 20687
“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 18 – SUNDAY – 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
FIELD TRIP
Smith Island from Point Lookout State Park dock, St. Mary’s County
11175 Point Lookout Road, Scotland, MD 20687
“SMITH ISLAND CAKE WALK”
Leader: Millie Kriemelmeyer
This is our inaugural SMAS outing to Smith Island, an isolated fishing community with a rich history, a centuries-old brogue dialect, and abundant birdlife. The island is 20 miles across from St. Mary’s, reachable only by boat. Be at the Point Lookout State Park dock by 10 am. After a 1.5 hour boat ride, we will reach Ewell on the island by noon. After lunch at the Bayside Restaurant birders can choose to either explore by golf cart or bicycle rental the path to Rhodes Point beside the march. Non-birders can visit the museum. We will return to the boat at 2:00 p.m. and arrive back to Point Lookout by 4:30 pm. Directions to Point Lookout dock: Drive south from Lexington Park on Rte. 235 for 13 miles. Go left on Rte. 5 for 5 miles to the park entrance. Pay fee and continue south to store and docks. Costs – $5 per vehicle at Point Lookout State Park entrance; Assuming the group is at least 15 persons, the roundtrip boat

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.
to Smith Island will cost $38 per adult ($18 for child age 3-11) exact cash to trip leader Millie; Add $20 for lunch (add $3 for Smith Island cake.) Golf cart or bicycle rental is optional. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. PLEASE CONTACT MILLIE KRIEMELMEYER BY SEPTEMBER 12 at mkriemelmeyer@me.com or 301-372-8766 to reserve a spot and to choose from 2 lunch options.**

**September 18 – 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 to David at davidh@gmail.com or 240-278-4473.

**October 2 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon**
**FIELD TRIP**
**Cove Point Beach and Marsh, Calvert County**
Exact location and directions given upon reservation
**“SHARP-TAILED SPARRROWS 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 and we are limited to ten guests. RSVP by September 25th to Bob at 443-404-5549, bobboxwell@hotmail.com

**October 5 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**
**MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM**
**Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert County**
1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, Lusby, MD 20657
**“Brown Pelicans of the Chesapeake Bay”**
DAVE BRINKER, Ecologist, MD DNR Natural Heritage Program
During the mid-1900s Brown Pelicans seriously declined along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States and were eventually listed as a threatened species. Historically, pelicans had never been recorded as a nesting species in Maryland or anywhere to the north. As pelican populations were recovering from the impacts of DDT, Dave discovered Maryland’s first Brown Pelican nesting in 1987. Since wandering into the Middle Atlantic States Brown Pelican populations have increased dramatically. The remarkable expansion of local Brown Pelicans in the region will be presented. Come learn how adults feed tiny chicks, and where Maryland nesting pelicans spend their winters, along with other snippets of the natural history of this facilitating water bird. Mingling and refreshments start at 7 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.

**October 15 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon**
**FIELD TRIP**
**Elms Environmental Education Center, St. Mary’s County**
49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628
**“BIRDING 101” - Youths Welcome!**
Leader(s): Bob Boxwell and Margarita Rochow
Calling on all wannabe birders!! Are you tired of saying “What bird is that?” Do you want to get better knowing what birds you are seeing? Birding 101 is the field trip for you! The more you walk the walk, the better you become! The location at the Elms Environmental Education Center offers a great habitat for birds. Bob and Margarita will point out helpful identification points such as: bird bill and facial markings, plumage details, field marks, flight patterns, sound, behavior, and habitat and seasonal expectation. Learn about birding apps too. Directions: 49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628. Take Rt 235 south, then left onto St. James Church road (opposite Mattapany Road). You will see the sign for the Elms Environmental Education Center. Meet at the “hunter’s parking lot” on the right, 100 yards before the gate. RSVP to Bob Boxwell at 410-610-5124 or Bobboxwell@hotmail.com

**October 23 – SUNDAY – 8 am – 12 noon**
**FIELD TRIP**
**Newtowne Neck State Park, St. Mary’s County**
MD 243, Compton, MD 20627
**“BIRDING NEWTOWNE’S FIELDS, FORESTS AND BAYS”**
Leader: David Moulton
A peninsula defined by Breton Bay, the Potomac River and St. Clements Bay, this 776-acre property of woodlands, wetlands and agricultural fields offers a wide variety of birding habitats. Newtowne was the first settlement in the Maryland province after St. Mary’s City. Owned for nearly 3 centuries by the Jesuits, the land was reclaimed as a state park in 2009 to protect it from development. Take Rte. west from Leonardtown. Turn left (south) on Rte. 243 (Newtowne Neck Road) for 4.5 miles to parking lot just beyond St. Francis Xavier’s Church. RSVP to David Moulton at 240-278-4473 or davidh@gmail.com

**October 29 – SATURDAY – 12:00-3:00 p.m.**
**FIELD TRIP**
**Mallows Bay Park, Charles County**
1440 Wilson Landing Road, Nanjemoy, MD 20662
**“BOO!! THE GHOSTS OF MALLOWS BAY”**
Youths Welcome
Leader: 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, snatch final peeks at our summer friends, and welcome in our winter residents. RSVP to Lynne up to 10:00 a.m. Saturdaycomstockel@aol.com or 301-751-8097.

**2015-2016 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)