In This Issue

Calvert Cliffs State Park Field Trip
Cat Wars
Magical Moments at Hog Island Audubon Camp
Field Trips and Programs

AUDUBON ADVENTURE TOUR
September 17th
See page 5 for details

President’s Perch
Audubon Adventures

Hopefully everyone had an adventurous summer. While our society has few summer events, we did have two that were noteworthy to share. On June 23 we had 20 attendees for our Osprey banding trip at Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay. Our leader, Greg Kearns, did his usual fabulous job, adding extra excitement at the end when the engine on the boat died! A park employee came to the rescue, adding only 30 minutes to the tour. The weather was the best you could wish for, and much fun was had by all. Unfortunately, it appears we are having another year of nest failures; this makes two in a row. I am glad that SMAS was able to have so many attend this trip; financial support is vital so researchers like Greg can continue to study the population and productivity of our SMAS signature bird.

Our second summer event came from our newly formed Youth Outreach Committee, chaired by Lee Vines. On Saturday, July 15 we had a dozen excited birders, ranging in age from 2 to 18, plus moms and a few adult birders who knew a good thing when they saw it. The folks at Ladybugs Alive! Sunflower Maze at historic Bachelor’s Hope Farm in Chaptico invited SMAS to hold the event. Lee gave a fantastic explanation of the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly (see aerial picture of the sunflower maze in the shape of the Monarch caterpillar), then we enjoyed a bird walk around the farm led by SMAS board member Tiffany Farrell. After the bird walk, kids meandered through the maze as a final treat. The weather gods blessed us again with low humidity and blue skies. Another bit of information regarding our Youth Outreach Committee, it has a new member, Gabriella Barbone. Gabriella is our youth representative and is in eighth grade. Her goal is to become an ornithologist, and we aim to help her on her journey! Welcome aboard Gabriella!!

Now we get ready for fall adventures, and, boy, do we have a line up!! Our first monthly meeting program on September 6 will be a purrrrfect way to educate southern Marylanders about the devastating effect that free-ranging cats have on our wildlife. Dr. Peter Marra, author, conservation ecologist, and director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center will present findings of his research and sign copies of his book Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer, which he co-authored with Chris Santella. It explores the science of cat predation, extinction and feline-borne diseases, as well as the legal, political and ethical considerations surrounding the issue. See his article in this newsletter.

September will also feature our very first Audubon Adventure Tour, a fundraiser, on Sunday, September 17 titled A Taste of History, Nature, Food and Wine. We will meet at Rosaryville State Park for a private tour of the historic Mount Airy Mansion and Chesapeake Natives Inc. plant nursery, take a bird walk, and then cap off our adventure at Romano Winery. I beg like a baby chick to all: please support this exciting new event. Our costs for lecture speakers and facility rentals are increasing every year, and we need your help. We also want to make it a yearly goal to send two teachers (vs. one if funds are tight) to Hog Island, Maine, for environmental education. See our promotional flier in this newsletter and full details on our website. And, you can also always go to our website anytime and donate by PayPal.

Fill your life with adventures, not things.
Lynne Wheeler
Calvert Cliffs State Park Field Trip - May 20, 2017

On a nearly perfect spring day, nine of us birded Calvert Cliffs State Park (CCSP). This is normally an excellent birding locale as it includes a variety of woodland habitats. Generally at this time of year, CCSP is alive with bird song. Nevertheless, we were all dismayed with the lack of bird song or bird activity, especially in the early morning when activity is normally at its peak.

Eventually, however, we found birds who were not hidden in the highest treetops and who consented to be examined with binoculars. The most fun was watching bird behavior; especially in the swamp area, where various species compete for food, nest sites, and territory. It was like watching a mini-avian soap opera with plenty of showing off, petty fighting, and nest-defending drama. In one small segment of the swamp, we observed - a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers building a nest in a dead snag, a tiny but ferocious Tree Swallow driving off an oblivious male Red-wing Blackbird who was intent on displaying just a few feet above their nest hole, enraged Red-wing males driving nest-raiding Common Grackles out of their territories, and a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers checking out real estate in one of the few remaining large dead trees in the swamp.

Altogether we identified 43 species, including Summer Tanagers, Blue Grosbeak, Cedar Waxwings, Red-tailed Hawk, and 9 different warbler species. This is not a particularly high count for CCSP at this time of year and includes some species that were heard only. Plus several turtles! The turtle we discovered near the woodpeckers appears to be a Northern Red-bellied Cooter. It is a shy turtle, best observed with binoculars before it slips out of sight. For more info on the Cooter, click on the link below:


We all speculated as to the reasons for the poor showing of birds. Other areas of Maryland (and even Ohio's famous Magee Marsh!) had similar experiences this spring. It might have been a matter of timing. Spring time and the leafing out of trees was early this year. With the main push of migrants coming to an end, many birds may have already been nesting. We also noted that last year at this time, worms were abundant in the tree tops at CCSP, turning the early spring leaves to Swiss Cheese and creating a constant rain of worm poop. It was a worm-feast for warblers. This year? It was hard to find a worm or even a leaf that had been chewed by a worm!

Though this trip did not yield the usual high counts of birds, it was, nevertheless, informative. By birding the same patch year in and year out, one becomes sensitive to the changes in species from one year to the next. It is a reminder to us all of the complexities in the lives of birds - some weighing less than an ounce - who must deal with the vagaries of weather, food availability, predators, climate change, and even interference by man. All without a safety net. No wonder we feel that we are viewing a small miracle every time we spot a forest gem like the male Hooded Warbler who popped up near our trip’s end.

Thanks to all of you for coming out to share a pleasant spring morning in a beautiful place.
Judy Ferris

View the trip checklist online at http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S37008946

Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer

Today, there are an estimated 90 million owned cats living in 46 million American homes. Some of these cats snuggle up to their owners while watching television, perform for videos, pounce after laser pointers and never leave the safe confines of their house or apartment. Others are allowed to roam at will, where they often fraternize with some of the estimated 30 to 80 million free-ranging, un-owned cats loose on the land, generally in places in proximity to human settlements. Cats are the most common domesticated animal allowed to roam free. Most people hardly think twice about opening the door and letting their cat outside, despite the many dangers free-ranging cats face. Cars pose the greatest threat, and are believed to claim more feline lives than any other source. Cats are also subject to predation by other animals, especially coyotes. And they can become ill from pathogens – including feline leukemia, feline panleukopenia, plague and rabies– as they mingle with wild animals or unowned cats who have not received proper veterinary care.

If you care for your cat’s well-being, the evidence strongly shows that you should buy a feather toy or laser pen to provide the stimulation they need and keep them inside... or pick up a leash and walk your feline, like millions of dog owners do every day. This sentiment is echoed by many leading animal advocacy organizations, ranging from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), and the United States Humane Society (USHS) to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

If you care about wildlife and the well-being of your human community, you have an equally compelling reason to not allow your cat to go outside unsupervised. For more than 100 years, scientists and bird lovers have suspected that domestic cats roaming outside were having a significant impact on American bird populations. Recently, a study published in 2013 in the journal Nature Communications estimated that between 1.3-4.0 billion birds are killed per year by cats. Mammal mortality was equally alarming with

continued on page 3
6.3 to 22.3 billion mammals killed every year by outdoor cats. Mortality for amphibians and reptiles was in the hundreds of millions – at 95 to 299 million amphibians and 258 to 822 million reptiles per year, respectively. These estimates were cause for double-takes among cat-owners, bird-watchers, and the broader public alike as attested to by global media coverage of the paper.

Pete Marra, an ornithologist and conservation biologist will talk about his new book Cat Wars on September 6 at 7:30 at the La Plata campus of the College of Southern Maryland. Marra will tell the story of the threats free-ranging cats pose to biodiversity and public health throughout the world. This compelling book and lecture traces the historical and cultural ties between humans and cats from early domestication to the current boom in pet ownership, along the way accessibly explaining the science of extinction, population modeling, and feline diseases. It will chart the developments that have led to our present impasse—from breakthrough studies on cat predation to cat-eradication programs underway in Australia today. It will describe how a small but vocal minority of cat advocates has campaigned successfully for no action in much the same way that special interest groups have stymied attempts to curtail smoking and climate change.

Cat Wars paints a revealing picture of a complex global problem—and proposes solutions that foresee a time when wildlife and humans are no longer vulnerable to the impacts of free-ranging cats.

Magical Moments at Hog Island Audubon Camp

As my taxi slipped through the fog toward the Hog Island boat launch, I imagined the adventures that awaited me at the National Audubon Society’s retreat in Maine. Finally going to summer camp for the first time---in middle age, no less----I felt like a kid again, energized by my newfound passion for birding. Anxiety and self-doubt crept in, too, because I have no science background and little more than a year “behind the binoculars.” In Damariscotta, a man in an Audubon shirt jumped out of the van to collect us. It was Kevin McGowan! --- my instructor for a Cornell online course. Totally surprised, I greeted him like a friend, and he was happy to meet in person one of 1200 students who joined those virtual lectures. My fears were dispelled.

Over four days, fantastic teachers, including Kevin, immersed us in all things avian. Shortly after we arrived, the clouds parted and the sun shone as we plied the waters to Eastern Egg Rock, an island where Atlantic Puffins now nest after decades of work by Audubon’s Project Puffin. There we saw at least a dozen of these adorable little clowns lounging on the rocky shoreline and paddling in the water. They seemed to enjoy playing to their audience, providing “fly-bys” and surprisingly close views. We all cooed with glee.

Awestruck experiences like these accompanied intensive learning. Dr. Stephen Kress lectured our first night about Project Puffin and his efforts to restore the species to this southernmost part of its territory. Later in the session, while eating dinner, I asked Stephen what motivated him to continue during those early years of failed efforts---when they relocated hundreds of chicks every summer from Canada to Maine and then those adult Puffins didn’t return to Maine to nest. He said he wanted to prove his critics wrong. His perseverance paid off when he and his team ultimately lured adult Puffins back to Maine with decoys. Bird conservationists worldwide have adopted his techniques to help struggling species.

Amid many great workshops, an afternoon of banding songbirds cast a magical spell. At home I so rarely get good, long looks at hyperactive warblers. There I helped set up mist nets on pine-covered trails and called them in. In the expert hands of Dr. Sara Morris, we observed a Northern Parula, a Black-throated Green Warbler, and a Golden-crowned Kinglet up close for about ten minutes each. She weighed them, measured wing feathers and legs, and rated body fat and hormone levels. A puff of air on the breast revealed my first view of a brood patch. Sara then placed a Kinglet next to my ear, and, holding my breath, I could hear its heartbeat. A moment in an outstretched palm and each banded bird disappeared skyward.

Moments like these are what we birders live for. At Hog Island’s sacred space, birding moments shimmer more brightly, more memorably than elsewhere.

For photos, click here! https://www.flickr.com/photos/143143949@N08/sets/72157687368200375

Tiffany Farrell received a scholarship from Southern Maryland Audubon Society to attend the Field Ornithology camp at Hog Island, Maine, in June. As a board member, she plans to use what she learned to enrich our local chapter and repay that generous honor.

A camper listens to the heartbeat of a Golden-crowned Kinglet.

A calm Northern Parula shows us his “best side.”
Chasing Target Life Birds In The Pacific Northwest
by David Moulton

At the end of June I broke free from the East Coast, heading west to Washington State with a list of a dozen “Code 1" birds that had eluded me on previous western trips. If you keep a Life List, as I do, those missing Code 1 birds – those judged relatively easy to find in the right place and season – really gnaw at you. They are the gaps in your list that are the hardest to leave unfilled.

I had a week to spend in Washington State, and a lot of ground to cover. Some species would be easy to find – in fact I found my first Target Life Bird (“TLB”) Red-breasted Sapsucker before leaving Seattle – but the others would require detailed local knowledge. Gray Flycatcher? Sagebrush Sparrow? Calliope Hummingbird? Even when you’re a local, finding these species requires some luck. When you don’t know the territory, you might not even get to the lucky part. So, through eBird, I had found the perfect local guide for the first two days. Jason Vasallo is a young hotshot on the Seattle birding scene, and he was keen to spend 2 days helping me get lucky.

Nevertheless, our first morning was a disappointment. We were in the snowfields of Mt. Rainier by 7 am on a blue-sky morning, chasing the Gray-crowned Rosy-finch, but 3 hours later, we had to declare defeat and turn our attention to other species. Several hours later, and a rocky-road drive into Wenatche Campground north of Yakima, we found TLB2 – Gray Flycatcher – pumping his tail and calling from a low bush. A Red-naped Sapsucker --TLB3 -- was also present. Late the same day, we drove another hour west to look for TLB4 – Sagebrush Sparrow. Jason knew just where to look off the Old Vantage Highway in Kittitas County, but our hike up an old fire road crowded with Vesper Sparrows didn’t produce what we were looking for. “Sometimes I find them on the way back down,” declared my trusty guide, a bit hopefully. Sure enough, as the sun dipped lower, up popped a singing Sagebrush Sparrow, lit brightly and singing boldly. It’s always a thrill to see a life bird, not to mention four in a day, but a setting sun and a distinctive song created a truly indelible memory at the end of Day One.

Day Two started strong in a glorious wooded valley in Liberty, shaded by steep hillsides from the early morning sun. Jason’s ear proved indispensable as we both strained to pick out the song of TLB5 -- Cassin’s Vireo -- from the many layers of music wafting out of the canopy from warblers, thrushes, tanagers and finches. After 45 minutes, Jason announced that he was hearing the bird way up the mountainside, so up we went. And there it was, singing its sweet vireo notes from high in the trees.

Next up, TLB6 – Calliope Hummingbird. At a nearby campground, another group of birders steered us in the right vicinity – a meadow full of lavender lupine – and when we played a brief recording of Calliope chatter, suddenly a male was helicoptering right over our heads, ready to do battle with the electronic intruders. He landed nearby providing great photo opportunities of yet another life bird.

Day Three started off with the TLB7 – Sooty Grouse. The tiny population of Skylarks, introduced by homesick Brits to suburban Victoria, British Columbia, were just a ferry-ride away. But TLB 9 was not easy to find. eBird put us in the right places, but most of the reports were for early-morning sightings. We had arrived mid-day and had to catch the ferry back to Port Angeles at 6 pm. But "sometimes you find the bird on the way back down", and sure enough, at a bulb farm on the way back to the ferry, we spotted a skylark in the field stubble just before it took off singing, higher and higher into the blue heavens, singing, singing endlessly. “To a Skylark" by Percy Bysshe Shelley, captured in words the blithe spirit of this remarkable bird, but experiencing its torrent of liquid sound pouring down out of a cloudless sky was rapturous.

One to go! TLB10 – the Sooty Grouse. Our strategy was to drive the 17-mile Hurricane Ridge road in Olympic National Park early in the morning hoping we would catch a grouse crossing the road or, if we were even luckier, hear a male grunting its low “oomph” sound. We drove that road – slowly, twice – but failed to find a grouse. But then, as happens in birding, we ran into a non-birding couple from Switzerland who, without knowing what they had just taken a picture of, showed us a spectacular photo on their camera of a displaying Sooty Grouse. Our frenzied excitement must have been infectious, because they graciously hopped in their camper and led us down the mountain road to the curve where they had taken the photo, and next thing you know, we are digiscoping a male Sooty Grouse booming from the branch of a tall Douglas Fir. Hallelujah.

I slept soundly that night, feeling lucky to have pushed my life list above 650, and checking off 9 out of the 10 Target Life Birds I had come to find. The Gray-crowned Rosy-finch still gnaws away in the background, but I welcome it as a ready-made excuse to spend some future morning on a mountainside in June, listening intently for a finch flock.
Foster Parents Needed!

Southern Maryland Audubon Society sponsors the banding of nesting birds of prey, or raptors, with serially numbered aluminum bands in cooperation with the Bird Banding Laboratory of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Limited numbers of Osprey, Barn Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl and American Kestrels become available each year for adoption. Your donation will be specifically utilized for raptor research and raptor conservation projects such as:

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

Please indicate which raptor you wish to adopt. You may adopt more than one:

- **Osprey**, $10 each  
  Total Amount:_____
- **Barn Owl**, $25 each  
  Total Amount:_____
- **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, $30 each  
  Total Amount:_____
- **American Kestrel**, $35 each  
  Total Amount:_____
- **General Donation to Raptor Fund**  
  Donation Amount:_____  

The foster parent receives:

- A certificate of adoption with the number of the U.S. Department of the Interior band and the location and date of the banding.
- Information on the ecology and migration patterns of the species.
- A photo of a fledgling and any other available information on the whereabouts or fate of the bird.

Name:______________________________________________
Street Address:_______________________________________
State, Zip Code:______________________________________
City:_______________________________________________
Email:______________________________________________
Phone:______________________________________________

If this is a gift, please include the recipient’s name for the certificate:

Mail To:  
**Southern Maryland Audubon Society**  
Carole Schnitzler  
3595 Silk Tree Court, Waldorf, MD  20602
September 6 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 pm
MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM
College of Southern Maryland, La Plata Campus, Charles County
8730 Mitchell Road, La Plata, MD 20646
Business Classroom Bldg, Room 106

“THE DEVASTATING EFFECT OF FREE-RANGING CATS”

PETER MARRA, Conservation Ecologist, Director, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center

Members of the birding and conservation community have long suspected that free-ranging cats pose a threat to birds and other wildlife. Little did we know that they also threaten the health of countless people around the globe, and pose a management conundrum that’s nearly as contentious as the debate over climate change. “Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer”, a book he co-authored with Chris Santella. He explores the science of cat predation, extinction and feline-borne diseases, as well as the legal, political and ethical considerations surrounding the issue. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com, or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

September 10 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Pax River Naval Air Station, St. Mary’s County
21866 Cedar Point, Patuxent River, MD 20670

“GRASSPIPPERS”
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, 301-757-8097 (prefer text).

September 16 - 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 17 – SUNDAY – 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
SPECIAL FUNDRAISER EVENT - AUDUBON ADVENTURE TOUR

Rosaryville State Park, Mount Airy Mansion and Romano Winery, Prince George’s County

Please join us for our fundraising adventure combining many of our favorite things! Our day begins with a private tour of historic Mount Airy Mansion, followed by visit to Chesapeake Natives plant nursery, where we will learn about native plants of our ecoregion. We then take a leisurely bird and nature walk around the park. Afterward we head to Romano Winery for a wine tasting and Mediterranean cuisine lunch. Tickets: $40 per person/ $75 per couple. See our website for more details at www.somdaudubon.org or email somdaudubon@yahoo.com

September 23 – SATURDAY - 8 a.m. – 11:00 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

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.

continued on page 7
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 moulton.davidh@gmail.com or 240-278-4473.

September 23 – SATURDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon
FIELD TRIP – NEW PARK!
Port Tobacco River Park, Charles County
7685 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD. 20677
“MULTI-HABITAT TRAILS – FIELDS, FORESTS AND WETLANDS”
Leaders: Lynne Wheeler
Join us for the very first bird walk at this fantastic new county park! It offers 4 miles of multi-habitat trails and multiple observation decks. Charles County Recreation, Parks & Tourism has granted just for us to check out this new park prior to its formal opening. Our peek at these trails has us very excited – they did a fabulous job! Come and walk the Eagle Trail, Butterfly Trail, Wetlands Trail, and the Pond Loop. RSVP to Lynne at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

September 24 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert County
9500 H.G. Trueman Road, 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

October 1 – 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 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 and we are limited to ten guests. RSVP by September 28th to Bob at 443-404-5549, bobboxwell@hotmail.com

October 4 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM
Kings Landing Park, Tom Wisner Hall, Calvert County
3255 Kings Landing Road, Huntingtown, MD 20639
“RADAR ANALYSIS OF NE U.S. FALL BIRD MIGRATION STOPOVER SITES”
DEANNA DAWSON, Wildlife Biologist, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Deanna will describe research conducted with University of Delaware collaborators that uses data collected by weather surveillance radars in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 5 (the 13 states from Virginia north to Maine) to map landbird use of stopover sites during the fall migration. Learn about this research which supports the idea that preserving existing patches of natural habitats, particularly forests, in developed landscapes and in coastal areas should be a conservation priority to address the stopover requirements of migrant landbirds. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

October 7 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Mallows Bay Park, Charles County
1440 Wilson Landing Road, Nanjemoy, MD 20662
“Get Into Mallows Bay”
Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler and Tiffany Farrell
Come and spend an afternoon for a special event prepared by the Friends of Mallows Bay. We are joining in with a one hour bird walk to help kick off an afternoon of scheduled events. No registration required. Youths welcome. Binoculars will be available. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

October 14 – 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”
Leader(s): Bob Boxwell and Margarita Rochow
Calling on all wannabe birders!! Youths Welcome!! Are you tired of wondering and saying “What bird is that?” Do you want to get better at 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. We will meet in the “hunter’s parking lot” on the right about 100 yards before the gate. RSVP to Bob Boxwell at 410-610-5124, Bobboxwell@hotmail.com

October 22– SUNDAY – 8 am – 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Newtowne Neck State Park, St. Mary’s County
Church address: 21370 Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650
“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 Rt 235 North 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 moulton.davidh@gmail.com

October 23 – SATURDAY – 8 a.m.  – 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Mallows Bay Park, Charles County
1440 Wilson Landing Road, Nanjemoy, MD 20662
“Get Into Mallows Bay”
Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler and Tiffany Farrell
Come and spend an afternoon for a special event prepared by the Friends of Mallows Bay. We are joining in with a one hour bird walk to help kick off an afternoon of scheduled events. No registration required. Youths welcome. Binoculars will be available. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

October 14 – 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”
Leader(s): Bob Boxwell and Margarita Rochow
Calling on all wannabe birders!! Youths Welcome!! Are you tired of wondering and saying “What bird is that?” Do you want to get better at 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. We will meet in the “hunter’s parking lot” on the right about 100 yards before the gate. RSVP to Bob Boxwell at 410-610-5124, Bobboxwell@hotmail.com

October 22– SUNDAY – 8 am – 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Newtowne Neck State Park, St. Mary’s County
Church address: 21370 Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650
“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 Rt 235 North 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 moulton.davidh@gmail.com

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 Rt 235 North 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 moulton.davidh@gmail.com

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.

2016-2017 Officers
President, Lynne Wheeler - 301.743.3236; 301.751.8097
Vice-President, Bob Lukinic - 301.283.6317
Treasurer, Will Daniel - 571.237.1122
Secretary, Julie Daniel - 240.346.1931