

# The Osprey

Newsletter of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society



Western Tanager  
Photo by Bill Hubick

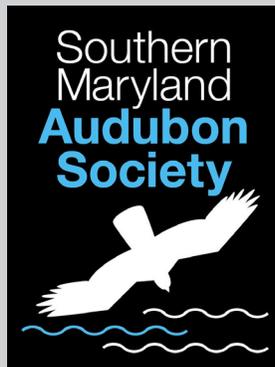
## In This Issue

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December 17, 2017

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January 27, 2018

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Week of Action

Field Trips and Programs



<http://somdaudubon.org/>

## President's Perch *Nest Building*

February is a fun time of year to watch Bald Eagles build their nests and settle in for an incubation time of approximately 35 days. For 10-11 weeks the parents put in a lot of hard work until the eaglets fledge. The male provides the majority of the food needed by his rapidly growing family. Eventually the female will take up her share of the hunting, but in the early days, all of her attention is given to the young eaglets in the nest. They are a team.

In a similar sense, our board has done a lot to nurture our society lately. Here's an update on how we have all been trying to provide a better nest for SMAS.

Our Field Trip Committee chair David Mouton, and our Program Committee chair Tiffany Farrell, finalized our events for January through June. They did a wonderful job offering exciting field trips and programs throughout southern Maryland. It is very challenging given the geographic size of our chapter to offer events within a reasonable travel distance for members, but they sure did succeed. Check out our website and see how we fly from Upper Marlboro, Owings, Clinton, Waldorf, Flag Ponds, to Pax River! Thanks you two! Special thanks also to Mary Ann Scott who helps layout our event flyer. She always does such a great job and her work is greatly appreciated.

We are interacting more with outside groups to expand youth activities and our bird-friendly communities initiative. Young birders can spread their wings at Barn Owl Prowls, Great Backyard Bird Count events, Bald Eagle nest watching events, and Birding 101 field trips. We are also starting to work more with local schools in assisting with bird and nature walks, and environmental science education.

These outreach activities become more successful when we get funds to offer our expertise and promote our mission. Last month the National Audubon Society awarded our chapter an \$800 grant for youth activities, one of which will involve planting native plants at a local nature park. We especially love this event as it will delve into the harm of invasive plants; in our planting area we will be digging up and removing Butterfly Bushes [Buddleia] prior to planting natives. We can't seem to get nurseries to stop selling them!

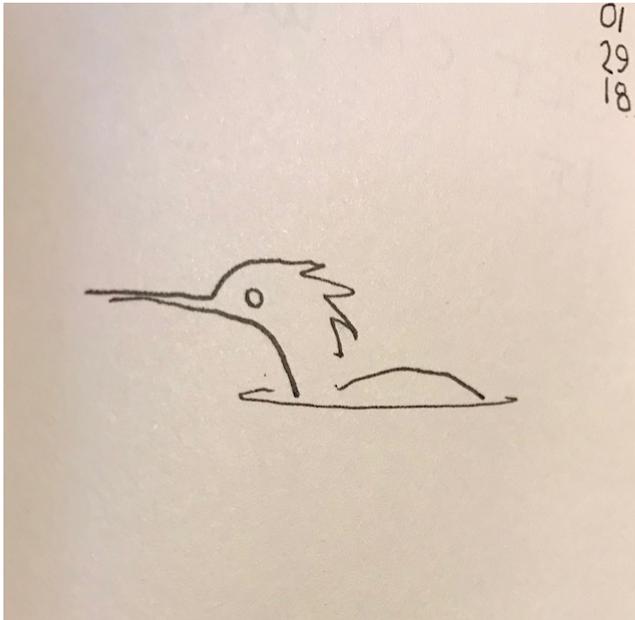
Speaking of native plants (remember – native plants are for the birds!) SMAS is a partner with the Charles Soil Conservation District in a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant. They received \$42,500 to implement native plant landscaping at their Waldorf facility, which also includes two rain gardens. The plan is impressive, and we will now have a fantastic showcase in southern Maryland to educate about their importance. Come and see the beginning of this project at our May 2 monthly lecture program. We are very fortunate to have Nancy Lawson, author of *The Humane Gardener*, present. I know it seems like May is a long way off, but as you can tell I am so excited I have to share now. Maybe I am also itching for spring; I really don't feel the love of February!

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So watch out for the eagle nests and what your SMAS board is trying to accomplish. Volunteer work takes passion and commitment. We do this work for our members, but even more so, we do it for the birds.

*The world is a nest of crows; some caw in praise;  
some caw in derision  
Be above the reach of praise and blame;  
do your best and fly!*

Lynne Wheeler, President



Red-breasted Merganser  
Sketch by Carrie Staples

### Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust

Please join our friends at the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust for some of their upcoming events including a GBBC field trip on February 19 (see Upcoming Events below for details) and Invasive Plant Removal on March 24 (something to help you learn which plants you can remove from your own yard!).

Also, Bob Boxwell leads a fall field trip for SMAS to the Cove Point beach, which is normally restricted access, to look for Nelson's Sparrow among other things.

Click on this link to see their full 2018 line-up!

<http://www.covepoint-trust.org/activities.html>

### Point Lookout CBC, December 17, 2017

I remember looking at a calendar several years ago and thinking about this stretch of bird counts that had Christmas on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday. Now we are in the middle of them. When we have to hold the count on the first Sunday it tends to depress the waterfowl numbers. That may be the case again this year, or maybe there just aren't as many waterfowl wintering here anymore. Going back a decade I can recall flocks of thousands of canvasbacks. This year we had three (no not three thousand, three ducks). Scaup used to come in large flocks as well, but now we see hundreds rather than thousands. Ruddy Ducks were the most numerous, followed by Canada Goose, Black Scoter, and Bufflehead (all in the thousands). A flock of blackbirds made for the most numerous species of the day with over ten thousand birds.

I covered St. George's Island and Kitts Point and barely saw any waterfowl. Buffleheads, a few goldeneyes, and a few ruddy ducks were about all I had. Where were the scaup, the Long-tailed Ducks, the mergansers, the Tundra Swans? Fortunately Point Lookout and the other Bay sectors did find some of these species and Tyler found his Barrow's Goldeneye and the Cackling Goose was back, but still I miss the variety and sheer numbers of the eighties and nineties.

We never get much in the way of puddle ducks but this year a Gadwall, Mallards, Black Ducks, and Wood Ducks completed the list. One waterfowl we didn't find was a welcome miss, no Mute Swans! Wish I could say the same about some other aliens but European Starling and House Sparrow numbers don't seem to be abating.

We had Northern Gannets again but no Brown Pelicans. There were small numbers of our usual birds of prey with the addition of the somewhat rare appearance of a Northern Harrier and Peregrine Falcon. Only three warbler species this year will Palm, and Pine joining the Yellow-rumped Warblers. Even sparrow numbers were low. A single Fox, and Field Sparrow made the list this year.

Overall species number of 102 is not bad. But the number of individual birds was not that high. My highlight for the day was at Camp Merryland on St. George's Island. While stopping at the group camping ground a Golden-crowned, and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet flew in and landed about two feet from me in a small shrub. A minute later a Brown Creeper landed almost at my feet. Up close and personal.

Thank you to everyone who participated. The coordinator job is still open if anyone is interested.

Bob Boxwell

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## Cool Internet Links!

The Passion and Peril of Birding - The New York Times  
New birding publications...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/23/books/review/birds-barnes-brunner-strycker.html>

Armchair Birding In Panama

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/grriscientist/2018/01/28/arm-chair-birding-in-panama/>

or <https://tinyurl.com/yeh22b74>

Whales and Dolphins at Play

You will need to be logged in to Facebook to see this video:

<https://tinyurl.com/whales-and-dolphins>

Ecology, Climate Change and Related News: Warming temperatures may cause birds to shrink

<http://www.pointblue.org/blog/sciencenews/index.php/2018/01/30/warming-temperatures-may-cause-birds-to-shrink/>

Sinepuxent, the most recent owl to be tagged in Maryland by Project SNOWstorm

<https://www.projectsnowstorm.org/posts/sinepuxent-report-southern-snowstorm/>

Woodpeckers Show Possible Brain Damage Like That In Football Players

<https://tinyurl.com/woodpecker-brain-damage>

Baby Octopi! <https://tinyurl.com/baby-octopi>

## Take Part in Audubon's National Week of Action

This April, Audubon will be holding a National Week of Action on two key legislative priorities – protecting the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and preventing the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) from expiring this year. To learn how your chapter can get involved, join next week's [webinar on Thursday, February 15, 4p.m. ET](#). The presenters are Justin Stokes, Audubon's director of legislative affairs; Jamie Huson, board member of North Cascades Audubon Society in Washington; and Val Peckham, field organizer from Audubon Pennsylvania. They will guide you through how to schedule, plan and execute an effective hometown community meeting with your member of Congress. Following the webinar, you will receive a full toolkit of resources and ongoing support right up to the week of action in April.

Participating in the week of action is a great way for your chapter to introduce your work and presence in your community to your federal representatives, while discussing two pressing conservation issues. It will also help you to start building a relationship for future engagement. Now more than ever, is a time when the power of our joint advocacy is required to protect the birds we care for. [Register here](#)

## Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum,

January 27, 2018

by Tyler Bell

Well, the forecast started off looking nice but as the date approached, it looked more and more like a steady rain. I had several people sign up and a few canceled the night before. A few didn't show up. So, it ended up being me as leader and David Moulton, SMAS's field trip coordinator, riding shotgun.

We followed a similar plan that I've worked out over the many years of running this trip. First, we headed to the mouth of St. Leonard's Creek to look for waterfowl, etc. In December, Mikey Lutmerding found a [Western Tanager and a Sedge Wren](#) at JPPM. The tanager left eons ago but the Sedge Wren had been reported the day before near the cottage. It didn't want to come out in the rain, though. Who could blame it? Mikey had also reported an immature Iceland Gull from this location also the day before. We did not find it either. I did manage to photograph an oothecal of a [Narrow-winged Mantis \(Tenodera angustipennis\)](#), a first photographed record for the [Maryland Biodiversity Project!](#)

The next several stops were along the Patuxent River shoreline looking for various waterfowl. Mikey had reported a family group of Cackling Geese and a pair of Northern Pintails. Naturally, we didn't find either of them. Starting to see a trend here. We did find some Gadwall and Ring-necked Ducks in the large pond on the private road at the north end of the property.

Having eked out as many waterfowl species as we could, we left JPPM to look for the stalwart Brown-headed Nuthatches at the end of Lloyd Bowen Road. The nuthatches didn't present themselves right away. While searching for the elusive nuthatches, I flushed an owl that had apparently been perched out of sight very near the road. It flew back into the pines and David was able to relocate it. It was one of the Great Horned Owls that nest there. The Red-headed Woodpeckers that are often at this spot were not showing.

Our final stop was along Turner Road. There were large Canada Goose flocks and mixed gulls but we were not able to glean anything unusual from either. No Eastern Meadowlarks or Horned Larks but a nice flock of Eastern Bluebirds and probably the largest flock of Rock Pigeons I've ever seen in Calvert County (35)!

We ended the day with a measly 36 species (eBird checklists below). Considering the often heavy rain, that's not too shabby. Had the trip been the day before when the weather was clear and dry, we probably would have almost doubled that since we couldn't hear most birds singing and land birds were hunkered down out of the rain. Oh well. What will next year be like?

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S42316874>

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S42317038>

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S42317144>

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

G J Bochniewicz, Fort Washington  
Deborah Buelow, Accokeek  
Elaine J Burdette, White Plains  
Mark Cavanaugh, Saint Inigoes  
Margaret Champagne, Indian Head  
Christopher M. Clarke, Huntingtown  
Melanie Danner, Clinton  
Linda Deatrick, Leonardtown  
Melanie S Donovan, North Beach  
Scott Gingras, Port Republic  
Lamar Gowland, Owings  
Dennis Grenda, Lexington Park  
John Guy, Mechanicsville  
Maurice Joseph, Dunkirk  
Anna Killius, Mechanicsville  
Dina Landoll, Faulkner  
Charles Rodgers, Prince Frederick  
Anna Sargent, Lexington Park  
Carolyn Sater, North Beach  
David Smith, La Plata  
Sigrid Stiles, Dameron  
Karen Timmons, Lusby  
John Turner, Suitland  
Janice E Waters, Waldorf  
Stephanie Yoon, Cobb Island

### These Birds Have Evolved Feathers as Black as The Blackest Material on Earth Dakota McCoy, The Conversation, 1/10/2018

What do birds and aerospace engineers have in common? Both have invented incredibly dark, “super-black” surfaces that absorb almost every last bit of light that strikes them. Of course scientists worked intentionally to devise these materials. It’s evolution that brought this amazing trait about in birds. My co-lead author Teresa Feo, our colleagues Todd A. Harvey and Rick Prum and I recently investigated the super-black feathers in some of the most outlandish animals on earth: the Birds of Paradise. These are resplendent birds native to Papua New Guinea and surrounding areas. Males are brilliantly colored, with complicated mating dances. Females, who are drab and brown in comparison, carefully inspect the ornaments and dances of males before choosing their mate.

We wanted to know more about these birds’ super-black plumage and how it works. What mechanism do these feathers employ to be so effective at absorbing light? The Birds of Paradise have evolved many remarkable traits, but none are more mysterious than the males’ velvety black plumage. This black is so dark that your eyes cannot focus on its surface; it looks like a cave, or a fuzzy black hole in space.

Using optical measurements, we found that these feather patches absorb up to 99.95 percent of directly incident light. That’s comparable to human-made very black materials such as solar panels, the lining of space telescopes, and even the “blackest black” material: Vantablack, which absorbs 99.96 percent of light.

## Chapters Defend MBTA

SMAS joined more than 300 Audubon chapters, and more than 500 groups in total nationwide, in a [letter](#) calling on Congress to defend and uphold the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) as we celebrate its 100th anniversary this year.

The MBTA is one of the Audubon Society’s earliest victories, and has protected millions if not billions of birds in its century-long history. Congress passed the MBTA in 1918 in response to public outcry over the mass slaughter of birds, which threatened egrets and other species with extinction. Today, this law protects birds from 21st-century threats, which has led to commonsense solutions like covering oil pits and flagging transmission lines that protect countless birds each year from otherwise needless deaths. In all, the MBTA prohibits killing or harming more than 1,000 species of America’s birds, such as [local bird examples].

The MBTA is currently facing the most serious attack on the law in its one hundred years. In November, Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) introduced a measure to gut the MBTA as an [amendment to H.R. 4239](#), a bill written to weaken environmental protections in order to facilitate oil and gas drilling. The bill is currently awaiting a vote in the House. Three days before Christmas, the administration followed suit when the Office of the Solicitor within the Department of the Interior [released an interpretation](#) of the law saying it will no longer enforce the MBTA in cases of incidental bird deaths, effectively giving a blank check to industry to avoid gruesome and preventable bird deaths.

Today’s letter shows that SMAS is united with other Audubon chapters and organizations from across the country who want to see this Congress build on our nation’s 100-year conservation ethic and reject misguided efforts that would undo the progress our country has made in conserving birds.



Immature Tundra Swan  
Photo by Carrie Staples

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## 2018 Field Trips and Programs

### February 16 – 19 Is the GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT!

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) celebrates the diversity of birds across America. It was also the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Researchers at Cornell and the National Audubon Society will use the data we collect. For information about the GBBC see their website at [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org). You can help out by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes!

### SPECIAL GBBC EVENTS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN MARYLAND!!!

#### Friday, February 16 Kings Landing Park, Calvert County 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Calvert Nature Society event. Ages 13 and up. Besides Kings Landing, we will visit Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary and the North Beach Marsh to increase our chances of seeing more species and numbers of birds. Reservations are required by: Wednesday, February 14. Program is free. Go to [www.calvertparks.org](http://www.calvertparks.org) to register.

#### Saturday, February 17 Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert County 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Calvert Nature Society event. All ages. Whether you are a novice or an expert birder, volunteers of all ages are welcome to help identify and count birds. Naturalist in charge: Shannon Steele. This program is free. Reservations are required by: Thursday, February 15. Go to [www.calvertparks.org](http://www.calvertparks.org) to register.

#### Saturday, February 17 Myrtle Point Park, St. Mary's County 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Join trip leader Bob Boxwell in this annual event. We will be taking the circuit route around Myrtle Point Park. Come prepared for the winter weather and bring your binoculars. We will count both species and the number of each to report to the GBBC website. Meet outside the gate at 9 a.m. For additional information e-mail Bob at [bobboxwell@hotmail.com](mailto:bobboxwell@hotmail.com) or call 410-610-5124.

#### Sunday, February 18 Port Tobacco River Park, Charles County 10 a.m. – 12 Noon

Join trip leader Lynne Wheeler at our new Charles County park. We will count all birds seen and heard on the Eagle and Wetland trails. Dress appropriately and bring your binoculars, but we also have some to lend. This is a great beginner bird activity! We will also check on our eagle nest and discuss the Eagle Monitoring initiative. Become a citizen scientist! Check out great GBBC K-12 resources at The Cornell Lab website at <http://www.birdsleuth.org/gbbc/>. For additional information email Lynne at [somdaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:somdaudubon@yahoo.com) or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

#### Monday, February 19 Hellen Creek Preserve, Calvert County 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Join trip leader Bob Boxwell who will be taking Hellen Creek Trail to the creek. Come prepared for the winter weather and bring your binoculars. We will count both species and the number of each to report to the GBBC website. At Coster/Mill Bridge Road take the turn onto Coster. Follow 0.9 of a mile to Clifton Drive. Turn right and follow 0.3 of a mile to a sign with 11785 on top and Boxwell on the bottom. Turn left and park at the end of the driveway. **Note:** Google maps does not work for the address 11785 Clifton Drive, Lusby, MD. Follow the directions listed. For additional information e-mail Bob at [bobboxwell@hotmail.com](mailto:bobboxwell@hotmail.com) or call 410-610-5124.

#### February 25 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon FIELD TRIP Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary's County "Winter Birds and Tundra Specialists at Pax River Airfield"

Leader: Kyle Rambo

We are fortunate to have access to airfields that provide tundra-like habitat. This trip will feature typical winter airfield birds such as Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Short-eared Owls, Horned Larks, Savannah Sparrows, and possible Wilson's Snipe and Peregrine Falcon. Preregistration is required and open to U.S. citizens only. Trip is limited to 10 people. Must bring a photo I.D. Meet at Gate #1 Visitor Parking Lot. RSVP to Kyle at [kyle.rambo@navy.mil](mailto:kyle.rambo@navy.mil) or 301-757-0005.

#### March 8 – THURSDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

#### Fairview Branch Library, Calvert County 8120 Southern Maryland Blvd, Owings, MD 20736 "BIRDS & GLASS COLLISIONS – WHAT YOU CAN DO"

ANNE LEWIS, President, City Wildlife, Inc.

Each year we lose as many as 1 billion birds to deadly glass collisions. Anne Lewis will talk about findings in their Lights Out DC bird collision monitoring program. You can also learn how to make glass in your home more bird friendly for spring migrants. Light refreshments and mingling starts at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, [somdaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:somdaudubon@yahoo.com) or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

#### March 18 – SUNDAY – 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon FAMILY FIELD TRIP – Youth Welcome Port Tobacco River Park, Charles County 7685 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677 "Eagle Nest Monitoring"

Leader: Lynne Wheeler and Lee Vines

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

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

**MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM**

**Clearwater Nature Center, Prince Georges County**

11400 Thrift Rd, Clinton, MD 20735

**“HUMMINGBIRDS – HOW TO ATTRACT THEM & NATIVE PLANT SALE”**

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

Our speaker is responsible for administering the national bird banding program and the data management system for bird banding and band encounter datasets. His personal banding activities are focused on banding hummingbirds in the mid-Atlantic region, especially hummingbirds that appear during late autumn and winter. Bruce will give a general talk about hummingbirds and how to attract them to your yard with native plants. We will also have a **native plant sale**, S MD Audubon Society fundraiser. Light refreshments and mingling starts at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, [somdaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:somdaudubon@yahoo.com) or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

April 15 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon

**FIELD TRIP – Youth Welcome**

**Port Tobacco River Park, Charles County**

7685 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

**“Birding 101”**

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler, Lee Vines and Tiffany Farrell

Come on out to the new Charles county nature park and learn the basics about birding. We will discuss the four keys to identification of birds: size and shape, color pattern, behavior, and habitat. After the basics we will delve into looking for field marks and listening to the sound of birds. The timing of this should also give us the possibility of seeing spring migrants. Bring your binoculars, but we also have some to lend. RSVP to Lynne at [somdaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:somdaudubon@yahoo.com) or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

**EARTH DAY SPECIAL EVENTS APRIL 22**

April 22- SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 11:00 A.M.

**FIELD TRIP – Youth Welcome**

**Port Tobacco River Park, Charles County**

**“Eagles and Migrants on the Trails”**

7685 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

Leader: Lynne Wheeler

Come and join us as we enjoy looking for migrating birds and check our eagle nest. No rsvp – just show up!

April 22 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**FIELD TRIP**

**Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary's County**

44300 Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, MD 20636

**“Eagles, Earth Day and Sotterley”**

Leader(s): David Moulton

Celebrate Earth Day with a birdwalk at this scenic and historic Patuxent River property as the annual surge of migrating birds begins throughout St. Mary's County. Nesting Bald Eagles, migrating warblers, meadowlarks, woodpeckers and waterfowl can all be found via Sotterley's extensive new trail system. From Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through the gates to the gravel parking lot on the Sotterley historic property. RSVP at [240-278-4473](tel:240-278-4473) or [moulton.davidh@gmail.com](mailto:moulton.davidh@gmail.com)

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

**FIELD TRIP**

**Elms Environmental Education Center, St. Mary's Co**

49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628

**“Birding 101”**

Leader(s): Judy Ferris 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 Elms Environmental Education Center offers great habitat for birds. Judy and Margarita will share helpful identification pointers 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: Take Rt 235 south, left onto St. James Church Road (opposite Mattapany Road). You will see the sign for the Elms Environmental Education Center. Meet in the hunter's dirt parking lot on the right before the gate. Call or email Judy: [jferris11@gmail.com](mailto:jferris11@gmail.com) or 410-326-1965.

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

**MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM**

**Charles Soil Conservation District, Charles County**

4200 Gardiner Road, Waldorf, MD 20601

**“THE HUMANE GARDENER”**

NANCY LAWSON, Author and Gardener

Welcome in your gardening season with the author of The Humane Gardener, Nancy Lawson, as she describes why and how you should open up your arms to wildlife in your backyard. Learn how to apply ecology in planting for wildlife by choosing native plant species, provide habitat, and create gardens free of poisons and other hazards. We will also have a **native plant sale**, S MD Audubon Society fundraiser. Light refreshments and mingling starts at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, [somdaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:somdaudubon@yahoo.com) or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

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

**FIELD TRIP**

**Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary's County**

**“Spring Migration on the Bay”**

Leader: Dean Newman

A rare opportunity to bird the PAX River Naval Air Station, a restricted-access area of bird-friendly habitats that boasts one of the longest lists of bird species in Southern Maryland. No fee, but advance registration required no later than Friday, May 10. Meet at the Park and Ride lot across the street from the Lexington Park Post Office on Tulagi Place. Call or email Dean to register: [dean.newman@dau.mil](mailto:dean.newman@dau.mil) or [301-672-5464](tel:301-672-5464).

May 12 – SATURDAY – ALL DAY

**COUNTY MAY COUNTS**

**Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's Counties**

Help is always needed and appreciated from all. This is a great way to learn and improve your bird ID skills! Please contact the following county coordinators:

*continued on page 7*

CALVERT: Sherman Suter (401-586-1073,  
[sjsuter29@verizon.net](mailto:sjsuter29@verizon.net))  
 CHARLES: Lynne Wheeler (301-751-8097,  
[somdaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:somdaudubon@yahoo.com))  
 PRINCE GEORGE'S: Fred Fallon (401-286-8152,  
[fwfallon@gmail.com](mailto:fwfallon@gmail.com))  
 ST. MARY'S: Tyler Bell (301-862-4623,  
[jtylerbell@yahoo.com](mailto:jtylerbell@yahoo.com))

### 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.*

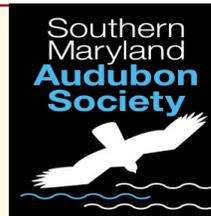
**GREAT NEWS!!** You can now go online and join SMAS via **PayPal**. Go to our website at [somdaudubon.org](http://somdaudubon.org) for this new option.

**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.**

#### 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**



## Southern Maryland Audubon Society Adopt-a-Raptor

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:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Osprey, \$10 each   | Total Amount: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Owl, \$25 each   | Total Amount: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Saw-whet Owl, \$30 each                            | Total Amount: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel, \$35 each                                 | Total Amount: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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*