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Spreading our Love Like Wildflowers

Anyone who has joined a non-profit board understands that the work can really be a labor of love, just like gardening. This is even more so when it is an all-volunteer organization. Either you must be crazy, or truly love the mission of the organization. I think that explains why many of us serve SMAS.

We share our time and passion for birds in many ways. Most volunteers really step up to the plate utilizing their specific skills in the many arenas that we need. Many members probably do not realize all of the time that we must dedicate to make our society grow to be the best it can be. The behind-the-scenes administrative work is immense, but - oh how we love our birds!

This is the last Osprey newsletter for this program year. You won’t see another issue until late August, so it is time to point out where I think we really blossomed this year.

We continued to support the conservation strategies of the National Audubon Society that focus on protecting birds and their habitats. The ones I think we have propagated well (gardening pun!) are the following: Advocacy, Education and Science, Working Lands, and Creating Bird Friendly Communities. Let me shine a little sunshine on these activities.

Advocacy. Our Conservation Chair, Bob Lukinic, interacts with and supports many local and national causes. The letters of support that SMAS sign on to are numerous, ranging from defending the Endangered Species Act to local smart growth initiatives. Supporting conservation through policy victories is vital. We are fortunate to have Bob as our crazy volunteer for this goal.

Education/Science. SMAS supports conservation through education and science multiple ways. We have had stellar lecture programs arranged for us by our Program Chair, Tiffany Farrell. For the last six months we have educated our members about global owl projects, the impact of free-ranging cats on wildlife, Whooping Crane recovery efforts, the loss of birds to deadly glass collisions, hummingbirds, and why it is important to garden with native plants! Our Raptor Conservation Chair, Mike Callahan, along with his committee member Carole Schnitzler, not only provide and monitor raptor boxes, they spread their knowledge about the raptors of Southern Maryland through events. Barn Owl banding events will always be one of the most popular with our avian lovers. This year we added to education through the new Youth Outreach Committee chaired by Lee Vines. SMAS was very fortunate to receive a private donation for youth outreach. Lee decided to fill what he found to be a void, offering environmental/avian classes to home schooled youth in Southern Maryland. It has been a big hit. (See the article in this issue). We continue to offer...
Birding 101 classes, many thanks to our Board of Director Margarita Rochow and SMAS members Judy Ferris and Bob Boxwell. Many have walked The Elms Environmental Education Center property and learned the many tools you need to identify our friends. Finally we continue to award teacher scholarships to Audubon’s camp in Hog Island, Maine and will send two teachers this year!

**Working Lands and Creating Bird Friendly Communities.**
I saved my personal favorite for last! SMAS applied to NAS for a grant earlier this year. We were fortunate to receive $800. Our 100-word application combined a strategic plan for our youth outreach initiative with native plants. The result: SMAS has adopted a pollinator garden at the Port Tobacco River Park. This area will enable us to have youth classes centered on the topics of Plants for Birds, What’s the Buzz about Native Bees?, Butterfly Host Plants, and Nature Journaling. We also partnered for a Chesapeake Bay Grant which the Charles Soil Conservation District (CSCD) applied for. They were awarded funds for a large native plant landscaping project which includes two rain gardens. This location is going to become a conservation showcase as they continue with an impressive plan ranging from field and meadow management to soil erosion. These strategies, demonstrated at the CSCD, will help support a healthy ecosystem. Of course, the use of native plants will be part of this conservation effort. We hope to expand next year and reach Southern MD farmers with a Buffer for Birds initiative. Our final monthly meeting hosted guest speaker Nancy Lawson, author of The Humane Gardener, at CSCD. Guests learned about landscaping for wildlife with native plants; they also saw the majestic beauty of the CSCD location. We combined Nancy’s with a native plant sale.

Thanks also to our fabulous Field Trip Committee Chair David Moulton, Hospitality Chair Robbi Ross, Officers, and everyone that was a leader for our many field trips. We continue to achieve our goals, spreading our love for birds like wildflowers!

Lynne Wheeler, President

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**Earth Day At Port Tobacco River Park**
Leader: Lynne Wheeler

On Sunday, April 22, eight of us birders celebrated Earth Day at the park. Two attendees were brand new birders from Huntingtown, Calvert County, who came for Birding 101. We all enjoyed sharing our knowledge and passion with them! Our morning started with excitement as we finally got a view in the Bald Eagle nest of two eaglets! We proceeded to walk three of the park trails, the Eagle Trail, Wetland Trail, and Butterfly Trail. At the beginning of the Eagle Trail we got a great view of a White-eye Vireo, followed by numerous Yellow-rumped warblers. We all got to experience warbler neck in trying to spot the Northern Parulas bouncing around in tree tops, followed by Ruby-crowned Kinglet, numerous Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, and Osprey everywhere! All of us really enjoyed seeing the natural Osprey nest you can view from the Wetland Trail, along with four mature Bald Eagles at one time. In total, we identified 35 species, along with one non-avian bonus of a juvenile Eastern Musk Turtle – a little stinkpot!

**Earth Day Birding At Sotterley Plantation**
David Moulton, leader

SMAS and Sotterley Plantation once again hosted its Earth Day birdwalk, which this year landed on Sunday, April 22. The weather was gorgeous - not too warm and not too cold, with sunshine to highlight the lemon yellow breast of the Eastern Meadowlark and the deep blue backs of the male Eastern Bluebirds. We were disappointed with the paucity of warblers (only one “heard-only” Northern Parula tallied) - a walk around Sotterley in another week or two would make a big difference, of course. But we were treated to a surprise Greater Yellowlegs, lovely portraits of Brown Thrasher and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and glimpses through the spotting scope of some oversized fluffy eaglets in a nest. Savannah Sparrows and Killdeer were in the fields, and Osprey and 3 species of swallows swooped overhead. As a non-avian bonus, a red fox appeared, patrolling the far shore of Sotterley Creek.

Total species identified totaled 42
https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S44822814

**WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!**

- Patricia Vazquez, Brandywine
- Karen Randall, Hughesville
- Conrad R. Vanasse, Indian Head
- Frances Younger, Lusby
- Laura Heid, Fort Washington
- Maurice Joseph, Dunkirk
- Kim Dean, Coltons Point
- Jennifer and Nick Garofalo, Huntingtown
- Toni Kruszka, Mechanicsville
- Karen Showalter, Indian Head

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Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on nest
Photo by Tyler Bell

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SMAS ANNUAL MEETING – PICNIC
AND ELECTIONS

June 3 – SUNDAY – 1:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m.
21801 Whites Neck Road, Bushwood, MD 20618,
St. Mary’s County

Potluck Lunch................................1:00 – 2:00
Welcome, Awards, and Election........2:00 – 2:45
Dancing with the Birds....................2:45 – 3:15
Bird Walk.................................3:15 – 4:00

Come and enjoy a picnic on the Wicomico waterfront! This privately owned 50 - acre property is situated on the junction of the Wicomico and Potomac rivers. It offers a view of Cobb Island, along with a varied habitat of a pond, meadows, and forests. This year we are going to shake things up with a folk dance class, amongst the nesting Osprey! Want to laugh and giggle? We might invent a new dance, the Osprey! Afterwards, if you are able, please join the bird walk. This property could offer us sightings of American Kestrel, Meadowlarks, numerous Osprey with active nests, warblers and many favorite water birds. As you drive in have your eyes peeled and binoculars ready --- you might see the resident Emu among the pine trees. Bring the kids for name-the-Emu fun! Private property. Open for this event only. Email inquiry to somdaudubon@yahoo.com or Lynne at 301-751-8097 (text preferred)

BRING A DISH OR DONATION

Birding 101 - The Elms Environmental Education Center
by Judy Ferris

April 28 was glorious spring morning - a perfect time to look at and learn about birds! We began our morning with a quick lesson in how to adjust binoculars to one’s own vision. Then it was on to bird hunting. We used pictures to get a better look at the elusive species and quietly listened to brief recordings of their songs to help us locate and identify them. Even experienced birders can benefit by learning bird sounds.

Though many in the group were new to birding, they flew high above and beyond the boundaries of Birding 101 by discovering a total of 47 different bird species in less than 3 hours! As you can see below, our bird list runs the gamut from Great Blue Herons to Ruby-crowned Kinglets and from majestic Bald Eagles to tiny Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Some of the species we observed - Eastern Kingbird, Blue Grosbeak, Chimney Swift, Swainson’s Thrush, and Blue-winged Warbler - had migrated to our area within the past few days or perhaps overnight. Others, like the Ruby-crowned Kinglets, will soon leave our area for the summer. I am most impressed with our warbler count - a total of 8 species, of which we were able to get our eyes on 5 - Blue-winged, Black-and-white, Pine, Yellow-rumped, and Prairie Warblers. Scouring towering treetops for tiny, constantly flitting warblers and actually being able to identify them is always a challenge, even for experienced birders. The group did a great job of patiently listening and looking. Our patience was rewarded by spotting a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird, doing his U-shaped courtship flight above a flowering fruit tree. We hope that the nearby female was as impressed as we were! In addition, we spotted a tiny Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest. The nest is a tiny cup of grass and other plant fibers, lined with plant down and feathers. The outside of the nest is coated with spider webs and decorated with lichen. Not bad for a bird that weighs less than two quarters!

By the end of the morning, nearly everyone in the group spotted new birds that they had never seen before. Trip favorites were Eastern Kingbirds, the feisty American Kestrel, and those cooperative warblers who offered us great looks at their brilliant colors. The entire group should be proud of themselves for finding and viewing an impressive list of birds and, hopefully, learning a bit along the way!

Thanks to each of you who joined our group for another great Elms Environmental Education Center bird trip. This is only my second springtime visit to Elms and I am impressed with the numbers and varieties of bird species to be found here. Special thanks to super-sleuth birder young Scotty Clark for his stellar talents as a bird-finder and identifier. As we would finish up with one bird, he would already be staking out the next one! What more could a trip leader want?!
Last spring our society created a new committee, Youth Outreach, chaired by Lee Vines, one of our Board of Directors. Lee, a retired biology teacher from the College of Southern Maryland, decided to steer his committee toward sharing his love of teaching, science, and nature to home-schooled children in our area.

I have been fortunate to help Lee in his interest and passion. His committee’s strategic plan focused this year on offering nature classes. Five different topics have been chosen, several of them drawing on the National Audubon Society’s Audubon Adventure Environmental Education curriculum.

This April we held two classes - Give a Hoot about Owls on April 20 and Birds on the Move on April 27. Boy, did we have fun with very remarkable groups! We advertised our first two classes via an internet group for local home schoolers, and through a contact for a Christian home school group. We ended up with a large waiting list for both classes! We shortly realized that we likely had a great idea and helped fill a void.

Both classes were offered at a wonderful venue, Thomas Stone National Historic Site, in Port Tobacco, MD. They have a lovely visitor’s center and were excited to partner with SMAS. They could not have been more accommodating!

Fourteen students attended our Give a Hoot about Owls class. We gave a presentation about the owls of North America, with a focus on the owls of Southern Maryland. To a PowerPoint show we added eight videos, which all the kids said made the lecture a lot more fun and interesting. After the 45 minute presentation we then had more fun (probably the most fun for them!), dissecting owl pellets. Offered to children in grades 1 through 6, the class ultimately taught children ranging in age from 7 to 14, some of them traveling from as far away as Baltimore and Largo, MD. These kids were very engaged. We received some remarkable emails from students and moms about how much they enjoyed the class and that they look forward to joining us for more events.

The second class, on April 27 also met at Thomas Stone National Historic Site. This was a more advanced class on bird migration - titled Birds on the Move. We pitched it to students in grades 1 through 8. 16 students, ranging in age from 7 to 12, traveled to the class from Largo and Lexington Park. The 45 minute lecture shared a lot of information about birds, flyways, how birds navigate, and the threats and challenges that migrating birds face. That PowerPoint presentation, too, had some fun videos. We ended the lesson with Birding 101 pointers, including how to use a field guide and binoculars. We then set out on a one hour bird walk. Such lucky new birders! They got fantastic views of a Great Crested Flycatcher, Chipping Sparrows, Blue Grosbeak, Eastern Bluebirds, and Yellow-rumped Warbler, to name a few. We also heard the Ovenbird; one very smart student remarked, after seeing a picture of an Ovenbird, that it reminded him of a Wood Thrush! They also got a very long look at, and heard the song of, an accommodating male Summer Tanager, which prompted a discussion of sexual dimorphism, too! Total species count was 23.

These two classes were thoroughly enjoyable for us and the students. In late summer and early fall, we will offer three more classes - The Buzz about Native Bees, Plants Are for the Birds!, and finally, Lee’s great passion, Nature Journaling.

This opportunity would not have been possible without a donation from a local foundation. We received funds for new binoculars, field guides, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Birding 101 folding pocket guides, blank nature journals, and Audubon Adventure educational materials. Huge thanks! You know who you are! Much love…. Lynne Wheeler

Peg Leg Pete
Photo by Carrie Staples
When You Should—and Should Not—Rescue Baby Birds

By Benji Jones
May 02, 2018
National Audubon Society

In the third grade, my teacher found what she thought was an abandoned baby bird on the school grounds. She asked if someone in the class would care for it, and days later, the European Starling I named Bluego (for a reason I wish I remembered) was living in a cardboard box in my bedroom, padded with fake spider web left over from Halloween. As a child, I was thrilled to be on my way toward becoming a wildlife rescuer, but years later I wondered if it was the right thing to do.

As I've learned, it probably wasn't. Like the vast majority of baby birds that people encounter, Bluego was a weeks-old fledgling—not a newly born nestling. And this distinction is critical, wildlife rehabbers say, because most fledglings don't need to be rescued. "Eighty percent of baby birds that come in have basically just been kidnapped," says Melanie Furr, education director at the Atlanta Audubon Society and a licensed volunteer at Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort. "They need to be taken back."

Wandering from the nest is exactly what fledglings—which are just learning to fly—are supposed to do, she says. It's a normal part of a bird's development, and though these chicks might appear abandoned, they're likely under surveillance by their parents nearby. Of course, there is a chance that they could be injured, sick, or in danger, so there are some cases where a fledgling might require assistance.

Nestlings, on the other hand, are almost always in need of rescue. Whether they fell or got pushed from their nest, they're "not ready to go off into the world," says Melanie Furr, education director at the Atlanta Audubon Society and a licensed volunteer at Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort. "They need to be taken back."

To know when you should intervene—and how you can help if needed—ask yourself the questions below.

Is the bird a nestling or fledgling?

When you come across a rogue baby, first determine its age, McMahon says. And there's one obvious sign: feathers. While fledglings are larger and covered almost completely in down and feathers, nestlings are small and typically naked—or with just a few fluffs. In other words, one looks like an awkward young bird, and the other kind of looks like a pink little alien. You can also distinguish age by movement: fledglings can hop, whereas nestlings might simply drag themselves on the ground by their bare wings.

If you've found a healthy fledgling: "Walk away from the bird," McMahon says. Rescuing healthy fledglings is not only unnecessary, but it can be detrimental to their development. When raised by hand, she says, babies might confuse humans as their parents (not unlike the geese in the movie Fly Away Home). If that happens, "they don't know how to be a bird," McMahon says.

If you've found a nestling: Help. First, look for the baby's nest in the nearby bushes or trees; if you find it, simply put the chick back and the parents will resume care. And don't worry about touching the bird: The idea that once you've touched a baby bird it will be rejected is not true, says Susan Elbin, director of conservation and science at New York City Audubon. "Birds have a sense of smell, but it's not very well developed," Elbin says. "They're not going to abandon their chick."

If the nest is nowhere to be found or simply out of reach, just craft one yourself, Furr says. Find a small container, like a strawberry basket, and load it with a scrap of T-shirt or some straw—anything dry will do. Gently place the youngling inside, and affix the artificial nest in a tree close to where the bird was found. "You want to get it as high up as possible," Furr says.

Once you've returned the bird to a nest—whether real or homemade—keep an eye out for the parents. If they don't return within an hour, call a wildlife rehabilitation center.

Is the bird sick, wounded, or at risk?

Whether you come across a fledgling or nestling, it's important to assess whether the bird needs medical help or is in danger.

Often, it's clear when the bird is in need of urgent care—if the cat dragged it in, that's a sure sign. Other times the signals are more subtle: Though it's a fledgling, it can't stand or hop normally. The feathers might be wet though it's not raining, indicating discharge or an illness that inhibits the production of preening oils. Or maybe it's surrounded by flies, which might signal an open wound.

During hot summer months, dehydration is also common, McMahon says. "Their belly is like a prune, wrinkled, shriveled and suck in," she says.

If you think you've found a sick or wounded fledgling or nestling, call a rehabber, state wildlife agency, or veterinarian immediately. If it's after hours, take the baby to a safe and warm location, Furr says, such as a closed box with air holes and a heating pad beneath it. And even if your parental instincts kick in, don't feed the baby, she says.

"People have good intentions and think the baby bird is going to starve," Furr says. "But a lot of times it ends up doing more harm than good."

continued on page 6
At Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort, she’s seen babies with food in their lungs from improper feeding. But if the chick is just kept in a dark place, its metabolism will slow down, she says, leaving plenty of time for professional re-habbers to swoop in for a rescue.

You might also come across a fledgling or nestling that’s not injured, but at risk—such as from a prowling cat or human feet. Here’s an easy fix: “Put it in a bush,” Elbin says. In other words, hide the chick or put it in a place that’s out of reach or out of the way.

And after all this, if you’re still not sure if the bird needs help or what to do, before doing anything, call your local wildlife rehabilitation center. Helping animals—and preventing fledgling kidnappings—is what they do.

May 19 – SATURDAY - 8 am - 12 pm
FIELD TRIP
SMALLWOOD STATE PARK, Charles County, MD
“Waterthrush, Red-heads, and Migrants”
2750 Sweden Point Road, Marbury, MD 20658
Leader: Lynne Wheeler
Smallwood State Park is a great location for Louisiana Waterthrush and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Good mixed habitat for migrants. Meet at 8 am at the Pavilion parking area just before the historic General Smallwood Retreat House. $3 entrance fee. This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society. RSVP to Lynne at 301-751-8097 (prefer text) or somdaudubon@yahoo.com

June 3 – SUNDAY – 1:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m.
ANNUAL MEETING
Private waterfront farm, Bluff Point, Bushwood, St. Mary’s County
Address and directions provided via email inquiry to somdaudubon@yahoo.com or call Lynne at 301-751-8097 (text preferred).

Potluck Lunch………………………………….… 1:00 – 2:15
Welcome……………………………………….…    2:15 – 2:30
Award presentation and Elections……………..    2:30 – 3:00
Bird Walk……………………………………….…    3:00 – 4:00

Come and enjoy a beautiful new venue. This privately owned 50 acre waterfront property is situated on the junction of the Wicomico and Potomac rivers. It offers a view of Cobb Island across the river, along with a varied habitat of a pond, meadows, and forests. Sightings of American Kestrel, Eastern Meadowlarks, Osprey, and many favorites are likely. Our bird walk will be a treat with new flora and fauna to explore.

June 22 – FRIDAY – 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
FIELD TRIP
Flag Ponds, Calvert County
1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, Lusby, MD 20657
“Nighttime Horseshoe Crab Adventure at Flag Ponds”
Leader: Andy Brown
The horseshoe crab is one of nature’s miracles, and their eggs fuel the amazing migration of shorebirds! Want to see horseshoe crabs spawning on the beach by moonlight? Join us for this unique chance at water’s edge. Bring flashlights, wear comfortable walking shoes that can get wet. Meet at the gate to Flag Ponds. RSVP to Andy at 443-624-3687 or Brownaj@co.cal.md.us

2018 Field Trips and Programs

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

May 19 – SATURDAY - 8 am - 12 pm
FIELD TRIP
SMALLWOOD STATE PARK, Charles County, MD
“Waterthrush, Red-heads, and Migrants”
2750 Sweden Point Road, Marbury, MD 20658
Leader: Lynne Wheeler
Smallwood State Park is a great location for Louisiana Waterthrush and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Good mixed habitat for migrants. Meet at 8 am at the Pavilion parking area just before the historic General Smallwood Retreat House. $3 entrance fee. This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society. RSVP to Lynne at 301-751-8097 (prefer text) or somdaudubon@yahoo.com

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ANNUAL MEETING
Private waterfront farm, Bluff Point, Bushwood, St. Mary’s County
Address and directions provided via email inquiry to somdaudubon@yahoo.com or call Lynne at 301-751-8097 (text preferred).

Potluck Lunch………………………………….… 1:00 – 2:15
Welcome……………………………………….…    2:15 – 2:30
Award presentation and Elections……………..    2:30 – 3:00
Bird Walk……………………………………….…    3:00 – 4:00

Come and enjoy a beautiful new venue. This privately owned 50 acre waterfront property is situated on the junction of the Wicomico and Potomac rivers. It offers a view of Cobb Island across the river, along with a varied habitat of a pond, meadows, and forests. Sightings of American Kestrel, Eastern Meadowlarks, Osprey, and many favorites are likely. Our bird walk will be a treat with new flora and fauna to explore.

June 22 – FRIDAY – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
FIELD TRIP
Patuxent River Park – Jug Bay, Prince George’s County
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
“Osprey Banding Trip”
Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler and Greg Kearns
If you have never been lucky enough to experience this beautiful park and see Osprey chicks up close and personal do not hesitate now! Greg Kearns, park naturalist, is one of the best in his field and provides a very entertaining, fact-filled fun outing. Feel free to come early to have a picnic lunch. Ages: 12 to adult, under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Maximum of 14 people. Cost: $26/person, payable the day of, in cash. Pre-register with Lynne at 301-751-8097 or somdaudubon@yahoo.com (email or text preferred).
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: ___1 year $20 ___2 year $35 ___3 year $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.

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.

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:

- 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

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