Southern Maryland Audubon Society
P.O. Box 181 • Bryans Road, MD 20616

The Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS) and is the oldest chapters. It meets on the third Tuesday of the month, except for the December meeting, which is held on the first Sunday of January. The program includes potluck lunch, election, and a late afternoon bird walk. The location varies each year amongst the four counties. Members are encouraged to bring guests.

Field Trips are arranged for various weekends throughout the year and are led by experienced members. Special youth trips are also featured. If you are a new birders we strongly recommend you to join our trips as it is the best way to learn and lots of fun. You will discover the wonderful birding spots in Southern Maryland while learning more about our avian friends. A telephone or email address is required with each leader. Most trips require guests to RSVP. Cancellation notification may be arranged directly from the leader or via the website.

Our Raptor Conservation is a primary effort of SMAS. The Raptor Conservation committee, aided by members, conducts research and enacts conservation activities in Southern Maryland. It is supported by our Adopt-a-Raptor program and currently includes four species: Osprey, Barn Owl, American Kestrel, and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Please send your email or newsletter for adoption details and assist our cause.

December 6 – Port Tobacco, MD
Compiler: Mike Callahan, 240-765-5124 or ravenwriter@gmail.com

December 16 – Point Lookout, MD
Compiler: Bob Boxwell, 410-610-5124 or boxbobwil@hotmail.com

December 30 – Patuxent River, MD
Compiler: Andy Brown, 410-535-5327 or Andrew.Brown@calvertcountymd.gov

119th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Please Sign Up Now!! Birds Count!!

Please join us and help count birds for the Christmas Bird Count. Participate in one of the oldest and largest citizen science programs. Beginner birders welcome. See website or Osprey newsletter for more details. Please contact your county coordinator and come out and count!

1972. SMAS is a non-profit organization incorporated in Maryland and is the largest citizen group involved in nature study and statewide conservation issues and research studies, along with winning Audubon magazine. Your membership helps support regional activities. It operates under the provisions of an approved constitution with business conducted by directors and officers elected by its members.

Monthly Meetings are held from September through June, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. These meetings are open to the public, and feature a guest speaker or film dealing with topics of nature and conservation. Arrive at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and socializing if the program is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

An Annual Meeting is held on the last Sunday of June. The program includes a potluck lunch, election, and a late afternoon bird walk. The location varies each year amongst the four counties. Members are encouraged to bring guests.

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FIELD TRIP

September 15 - SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Point Lookout State Park, St. Mary’s County
11175 Point Lookout Road, Scotland, MD 20687

“MIGRATION ON THE POINT”
Leader: Taylor Bell
Join us at Southern Maryland’s premier birding hotspot as fall migrants funnel south to cross the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. Lobolly pines, mixed hardwoods, beaches, marshes and broad open water offer 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 k area. RSVP to Tyler Bell at tylerbell@yahoo.com or 301-862-4623.

September 22 – SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm
FIELD TRIP
Port Tobacco Restaurant & Marina, Western Charles County
13265 Point Lookout Road, Point Lookout, MD 20677

“AUTUMN EQUINOX - FALL BIRD MIGRATION ROAD Rally”
Leader(s): Bob Boxwell and Margarita Rochow
Something new! A hunt – for fall - migrants road rally! Let’s see how many migrants our group can find. We will meet and eat pool at the Port Tobacco Restaurant and then drive out to Sotterley Wildlife Management Area (WMA). There you will see a wide variety of species and unusual rarities. As we head north to Cedar Point Wildlife Management Area, Welcome, MD. This location is situated on a peninsula of the Nanjemoy Creek and Potomac River, offering a mix of tidal marsh habitat as well as tidal marsh, marsh-marsh and tidal ponds, and agricultural fields. After two hours here, we will head further west to Lunsford Farm Park, Nanjemoy, MD. This farm park offers seven miles of recreational trail that provides access to 382 acres of forest and agricultural fields surrounding Nanjemoy Creek. We will finalize our day with a relaxing water taxi ride - lunch at the Port Tobacco Restaurant & Marina. To register contact Lynne Wheeler at somdabayobserver@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

September 23 – SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
FIELD TRIP
Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary’s County
43400 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636

“BIRDING THE FIELDS AND TRAILS OF SOTTERLEY”
Leader(s): Dave Moulton and Michael Patterson
Join us for a fall excursion to this scenic and historic Patuxent River landscape property. Bald Eagles, migrant songbirds and lingering woodlands and prairie birds will all be on display at this location. Directions: From Rte. 235, go north on Sotterley Road; turn right through gates to the Sotterley Plantation visitors’ center parking lot. RSVP to David at moulton77@gmail.com or 240-278-4473.

September 29 – SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
FIELD TRIP & EXHIBITION
Annmarie Sandoz Garden Center, Calvert County
13480 Dowell Road, Dowell, MD 20629

“FLY AWAY! THE MIGRATION OF BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES!”
Check out the Nature Nook gallery exhibit from September 22 - November 13 and celebrate the autumnal migration patterns of birds and butterflies. SMAS members Bev and Warren Wagner are leading a bird walk on Saturday, September 29 to promote such a wonderful site at one of our most beautiful locations in southern Maryland. For full details check out their website at https://www.amarienaturegarden.org/.

October 3 – WEDNESDAY - 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm
MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM
Accokeek Foundation, Accokeek Park
Education Center, Prince Georges County
3400 Bryon Road Point, Accokeek, MD 20607

“The Cape May Raptor Banding Project”
Paul Napier, President
Cape May Raptor Banding Project
Paul Napier will present “The Cape May Raptor Banding Project,” which will cover a brief history, some impressive Project statistics, an overview of the internship program, how the project contributes to science, and portraits and facts about the raptors banded. There will be refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, somdabayobserver@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text). Directions: See website for parking.

October 7 – SUNDAY - 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Point Lookout Restaurant & Marina, Western Charles County
17366 Point Lookout Road, Point Lookout, MD 20677

“SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS AND MIGRANTS”
Leader: Bob Boxwell
Point Lookout 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 invasion. We will look for marsh sparrows, migrants, and marsh sparrows. This is a restricted area - limited to 15 people. RSVP by September 30th to Bob at bobboxbell@hotmail.com or 443-404-5549.

October 13 – SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Elms Environmental Education Center, St. Mary’s County
9700 Tred Avon Road, Darnel, MD 20602

“BIRDING 101”
Leader(s): Bob Boxwell and Margarita Rochow
Calling all wannabe birders!! "Youths Welcome!!" Are you tired of zooming in on "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! You will move the walk, better the situation! You become the location! At the Elms Environmental Education Center offers a great habitat for birds. Bob and Margaretta will point out helpful identification points, such as bird bill and facial markings, plumage details, field marks, migration, and habitat and seasonal expectations. Learn about birding apps too. Directions: 49300 St. James Chapel Road, Unicipal Park, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Take Rte. 235 south, then left onto St. James Church Road (opposite Mattapan Road). You will see the sign for the Elms Environmental Education Center. We will meet at Elms parking lot on the right about 100 yards before the gate. RSVP to Bob Boxwell at bobboxbell@hotmail.com or 410-610-5124.

October 21 – SUNDAY - 8:00 am - 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary’s County
43400 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636

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November 18 - SUNDAY - 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Mattawoman Wildlands, Maryland, Charles County
4200 Gardiner Road, Waldorf, MD 20601

“EARLY WATERSHED AND LATE MIGRANTS ON THE MARYLAND MOP TRAIL”
Leader: Lynne Wheeler
This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. We usually expect large concentrations of waterfowl on the Mattawoman Creek, along with songbirds, woodpeckers, (some red-headed), and raptors. Meet at Lackey High School, parking lot on Rte. 26 (across from Giant), Indian Head, MD 20640 at 7:45 am. Bring waterproof shoes or low boots, and dress for possible wind. Be prepared for a one-mile walk to and from the head of the trail, and then a one or two mile hike (MOP) trail. Make reservation with Lynne at somdabayobserver@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

November 27 - WEDNESDAY - 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM
Accokeek Foundation, Accokeek Park
Education Center, Prince Georges County
3400 Bryon Road Point, Accokeek, MD 20607

“MD BIODIVERSITY PROJECT”
Jim Brighton, Co-founder, MD Biodiversity Project
This 501(c3) non-profit organization focused on cataloging all the living things of Maryland. Their goal is to promote education and conservation by helping to build a vibrant nature study community. The project was started in 2007 and are last year by Bill Hubick and Jim Brighton. The project has cataloged over 1500 species, including over 9,000 species with photographs, and features the work of more than 1,000 naturalists and photographers. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7:30 pm. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, somdabayobserver@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

December 4 – SATURDAY - 8:00 am - 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
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