Most of us have probably heard the results a recent study on bird abundance. The statistics are depressing. Overall, we have lost 2.9 billion birds in the United States and Canada since 1970. Most of those losses, 2.5 billion, are migratory species—a staggering 28 percent decrease. For anyone who loves birds, this news is wrenching. Even friends who are not avid birders are shocked. Their first question to me is “Why?” The culprits are largely human activities—habitat loss, insect collapse and pesticide use, plastics, outdoor cats, window collisions, and others. I am stunned and deeply saddened, but I resolve to learn and do more to help #BringBirdsBack.

If you, too, would like to help, check out the website www.3billionbirds.org. There are more details on the study plus infographics you can share on social media. One called “7 Simple Actions to Help Birds” is an empowering tool. It helps me remember pointers to recommend to friends—such as keeping cats indoors, making windows safer, reducing plastic use, and planting native flora. Please read this month’s article for more details. Our actions matter. Simple choices every day—amplified among bird lovers, our friends, and family—can have positive outcomes.

Remember, by eliminating DDT we helped bring back Bald Eagles and Osprey. Thanks to conservation of Jack Pine forests, the Kirtland’s Warbler has rebounded successfully. Just this week it was removed from the Endangered Species List. A bright spot in the study was the increase in waterfowl largely because of wetlands conservation. That info helps policymakers, but what else can individuals do?

One of the 7 Simple Actions to #BringBirdsBack is contributing to citizen science. Anyone can report their sightings on eBird.org. It’s an excellent way to keep track of your life list! SMAS also coordinates local bird counts as part of national surveys, including the Christmas Bird Count and the May Count. In 2020, we will also begin the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas, a five year project. Please come out and help us count! Plus SMAS holds monthly lectures, field trips, youth classes, festival booths, and more. Check our events calendar and help #BringBirdsBack!

Tiffany Farrell
SMAS President
Seven Simple Actions to Help Birds

We’ve lost 1 in 4 breeding birds since 1970. A new study finds even common, beloved birds are among the steepest declines. [https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/bring-birds-back](https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/bring-birds-back)

1. Make Windows Safer, Day and Night
The challenge: Up to 1 billion birds are estimated to die each year after hitting windows in the United States and Canada. The cause: By day, birds perceive reflections in glass as habitat they can fly into. By night, migratory birds drawn in by city lights are at high risk of colliding with buildings. These simple steps save birds: On the outside of the window, install screens or break up reflections—using film, paint, or Acopian BirdSavers or other string spaced no more than two inches high or four inches wide. Take it further: Work with businesses or public buildings to offer a contest for creative “window mural” designs that make windows safer for birds. Support legislation for bird-friendly building designs. Start a lights-out campaign in your city.

2. Keep Cats Indoors
The challenge: Cats are estimated to kill more than 2.6 billion birds annually in the U.S. and Canada. This is the #1 human-caused reason for the loss of birds, aside from habitat loss. The cause: Cats can make great pets, but more than 110 million feral and pet cats now roam in the United States and Canada. These nonnative predators instinctively hunt and kill birds even when well fed. A solution that’s good for cats and birds: Save birds and keep cats healthy by keeping cats indoors or creating an outdoor “catio.” You can also train your cat to walk on a leash. Take it further: Speak out about the impacts of feral cat colonies in your neighborhood and on public lands. Unowned cats’ lives may be as short as two years because of disease and hardship, and they are responsible for more than two-thirds of birds killed by cats in the United States.

3. Reduce Lawn, Plant Natives
The challenge: Birds have fewer places to safely rest during migration and to raise their young: More than 10 million acres of land in the United States were converted to developed land from 1982 to 1997. The cause: Lawns and pavement don’t offer enough food or shelter for many birds and other wildlife. With more than 40 million acres of lawn in the U.S. alone, there’s huge potential to support wildlife by replacing lawns with native plantings. Add native plants, watch birds come in: Native plants add interest and beauty to your yard and neighborhood, and provide shelter and nesting areas for birds. The nectar, seeds, berries, and insects will sustain birds and diverse wildlife.

4. Avoid Pesticides
The challenge: More than 1 billion pounds of pesticides are applied in the United States each year. The continent’s most widely used insecticides, called neonicotinoids or “neonics,” are lethal to birds and to the insects that birds consume. Common weed killers used around homes, such as 2, 4-D and glyphosate (used in Roundup), can be toxic to wildlife, and glyphosate has been declared a probable human carcinogen. The cause: Pesticides that are toxic to birds can harm them directly through contact, or if they eat contaminated seeds or prey. Pesticides can also harm birds indirectly by reducing the number of available insects, which birds need to survive.

A healthy choice for you, your family, and birds: Consider purchasing organic food. Nearly 70% of produce sold in the U.S. contains pesticides. Reduce pesticides around your home and garden. Take it further: Urge U.S. Representatives to cosponsor the Saving America’s Pollinators Act. The bill, H.R. 1337, requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to suspend registration of neonics.

5. Drink Coffee That’s Good for Birds
The challenge: Three-quarters of the world’s coffee farms grow their plants in the sun, destroying forests that birds and other wildlife need for food and shelter. Sun-grown coffee also often requires using environmentally harmful pesticides and fertilizers. On the other hand, shade-grown coffee preserves a forest canopy that helps migratory birds survive the winter. The cause: Too few consumers are aware of the problems of sun coffee. Those who are aware may be reluctant to pay more for environmentally sustainable coffee. Enjoy shade-grown coffee: It’s a win-win-win: it’s delicious, economically beneficial to coffee farmers, and helps more than 42 species of North American migratory songbirds that winter in coffee plantations, including orioles, warblers, and thrushes. Take it further: Look for Bird Friendly coffee, a certification from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center that also includes organic standards. Educate coffee shops and grocery stores about shade-grown coffees.

6. Protect Our Planet from Plastic
The challenge: It’s estimated that 4,900 million metric tons of plastic have accumulated in landfills and in our environment worldwide, polluting our oceans and harming wildlife such as seabirds, whales, and turtles that mistakenly eat plastic, or become entangled in it. The cause: Plastic takes more than 400 years to degrade, and 91% of plastics created are not recycled. Studies show that at least 80 seabird species ingest plastic, mistakes it for food. Cigarette lighters, toothbrushes, and other trash have been found in the stomachs of dead albatrosses. Reduce your plastics: Avoid single-use plastics including bags, bottles, wraps, and disposable utensils. It’s far better to choose reusable items, but if you do have disposable plastic, be sure to recycle it. Take it further: Advocate for bans of plastic bags, styrofoam, and straws. Encourage stores to offer incentives for reusable bags, and ask restaurants and other businesses to phase out single-use plastics.

7. Watch Birds, Share What You See
The challenge: The world’s most abundant bird, the Passenger Pigeon, went extinct, and people didn’t realize how quickly it was vanishing until it was too late. Monitoring birds is essential to help protect them, but tracking the health of the world’s 10,000 bird species is an immense challenge. Take it further: Advocate for bans of plastic bags, styrofoam, and straws. Encourage stores to offer incentives for reusable bags, and ask restaurants and other businesses to phase out single-use plastics.

Continued on page 3
The cause: To understand how birds are faring, scientists need hundreds of thousands of people to report what they’re seeing in backyards, neighborhoods, and wild places around the world. Without this information, scientists will not have enough timely data to show where and when birds are declining around the world.

Enjoy birds while helping science and conservation: Join a project such as eBird, Project FeederWatch, a Christmas Bird Count, or a Breeding Bird Survey to record your bird observations. Your contributions will provide valuable information to show where birds are thriving—and where they need our help. Note: If you don’t yet know how to use eBird, we have a free course to help you get the most out of the project and its tools.

Take it further: Mobilize others in your community by organizing school groups or leading bird walks and submitting your counts to eBird. Support organizations that coordinate monitoring projects.

https://tinyurl.com/7simpleactions

What a perfect morning for a birding trip! Though the birds - especially the Chickadees and Titmice - were quieter than usual, we managed to see or hear a total of 32 species. In the dim light of a totally overcast morning, the parking lot featured a variety of birds, including Eastern Bluebirds, Eastern Phoebe, Chipping Sparrows galore, Brown Thrashers, American Redstart, and Pine Warblers. In the woods we discovered a new cast of characters; Woodpeckers, Acadian (Pizza bird!) Flycatchers, Eastern Wood-pewees, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos, and a brief glimpse of a Hooded Warbler. We stopped often to listen for bird sounds and to practice birding by ear as well as by sight. As the forested landscape opened into swamp, we spotted an adult Bald Eagle on the far side of the swamp, hear the dull chips of Common Yellowthroats, and spy upon Wood Ducks (adult males and females and immatures) on the far side of the marsh. The duck’s gentle screams fill the air as various duck groups try to locate one another amidst the dense vegetation.

The main swamp at Calvert Cliffs State Park has changed significantly in the past 15 years. 1) Dead tree snags - once abundant and home to families of Red-headed Woodpeckers - have mostly rotted and fallen down. The Red-headed Woodpeckers have moved elsewhere. 2) Beavers - those industrious dam-builders - however, have been hard at work! In the past 5-10 years, the ambitious rodents have expanded upstream, constructing an extensive series of dams. Thus, areas that formerly hosted only a narrow, meandering creek are now flooded. These newly flooded areas are the realm of abundant Wood Ducks year round, as well as Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and wintering migratory waterfowl. 3) The number of folks visiting the park has increased dramatically in the past 10 years. On weekends in particular, the level of human activity is intense; particularly on the Red Trail which traces the edge of the swamp. By the end of a busy weekend, the flood of visitors seems to have pushed birds and other wildlife back from their favorite waterside haunts and deeper into the forest.

Making our way back up the trail to our starting point, we reviewed our bird list for the morning. WOOD DUCK is unanimously elected as our ‘trip bird’ for the day! As we near the parking area, we spotted a beautiful female Summer Tanager at eye level. A perfect ending to a companionable and, yes, educational, bird trip. Thanks to all of you for coming along for the adventure! Happy birding!

P.S. Here are a couple of things we talked about during the trip which you may want to check out:

THE WARBLER GUIDE by Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle. Available as an App or as a hardcopy book. I prefer the latter to use as a reference at home. The BEST warbler book yet!

THE SIBLEY GUIDE TO BIRDS by David Allen Sibley. I use this App on my phone often to check on bird distribution maps, bird sounds, and even compare pictures of two similar bird species. Basically an entire bird book that fits on your phone.
Point Lookout State Park, September 28, 2019
by Tyler Bell

The weather was warm and sticky but not as hot as on many of my field trips. Probably due to the flash drought (new weather term I’d never heard of because of the quick onslaught of extreme drought conditions following a ridiculously wet spring and early summer), there were virtually no mosquitos. Last year we got chewed alive unless you doused yourself in bug spray. This year, I didn’t even bother. We met in what used to be the small parking lot by the entrance kiosk. They revamped it since last year and now there are only a few parking spots all in a line. So, once we had a quorum, we headed to the parking lot by the picnic area bathrooms.

Because they were doing a Civil War reenactment with cannons and muskets, I changed the route to head to the area north of the fort first then get back south of that area before the gunfire commenced. Never did hear any though some of the reenactors invited us to stay for the fun. The pound nets near the inlet were loaded with a few lingering Osprey, lots of Brown Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants and Laughing Gulls. Other gulls and terns were noticeably absent though I usually run this trip a few weeks earlier but couldn’t because I was attending a conference in Poland. Lucky for you, there were few birds involved so I won’t bore you with the details. We watched as an inflatable porpoise blew ashore much to the delight of the family that had lost it, and had tracked it, from the picnic area.

Heading back down the same paths we had taken, we added a few more warbler species but the Brown-headed Nuthatches just tantalized us with fleeting glimpses as the vocalized in the Lobolloy Pines. Three members of the group were from Ohio and were visiting friends, also on the trip. We discussed the difference in our Carolina versus their Black-capped Chickadees. And, Buckeye butterflies were quite common and they noted that their Ohio Buckeyes would be taking the field later on in the day. Quite different species!

When we passed through the parking lot, a few folks dropped off due to prior commitments so a smaller group of us headed down to the point and the lighthouse. The small stand of trees near the smokehouse had had a path cleared right up the middle thus decimating the already dwindling habitat there. This used to be one of the best places to find migrants who had made their way to the point, saw the Bay on one side and the Potomac on the other and stopped to fuel up. Not sure we saw a single bird in the remnants.

Back at the parking lot, the Ohioans and friends departed leaving just three of us. There was some bird activity on the ground between the bathrooms and some picnic benches. It was the most Pine Warblers I think I’ve ever seen in one place. We had no idea what they were eating but there was something there that drew them in. We dug out a few more warblers, a Black-and-white and a Northern Parula then it was time to depart.

So, the name of the field trip should be Migration Gamble because you never know what you’ll find. Some trips have more or less but we ended up with a respectable 42 species in the park. What will next year bring? Come and find out!

Finding the Eurasian Tree Sparrow, thanks to “Birding Pal”
by David Moulton

I admit it – I fall into that category of bird lovers who have succumbed to the seduction of the “Life List” – a tally of all bird species identified over my lifetime. And because I have limited this obsession geographically to the definition of North America used by the American Birding Association (i.e., Mexico gets excluded), it has become increasingly difficult for me to add to this list each year. This can lead to some odd behavior chasing odd birds.

For example, on my way to a recent non-birding exploration of the Dakotas with my brother, I made a point of booking a connecting flight through St. Louis in order to chase the Eurasian Tree Sparrow. Suburban and rural St. Louis hosts the only viable population of this non-native species in the United States. Sometimes called the German Sparrow, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow looks a lot like another non-native – the House Sparrow. Both species were released by well-meaning but misguided folks in the 1800s as a comfort to recent immigrants, and the House Sparrow spread rapidly across the Americas as it belonged here. The Eurasian Tree Sparrow, however, has been much less adaptable. After 12 pairs were released in St. Louis in 1870, and a long-term breeding population blossomed in rural areas around the St. Louis metropolitan area, this species has so far been unable to expand much beyond the territory of its original release.

When chasing a life bird in unfamiliar territory with a connecting flight looming, it is best to seek local help. For this I sought out Birding Pal (www.birdingpal.org), a $10/yr online service for birders who voluntarily register their willingness to help out fellow birders. I had been registered with Birding Pal for several years, and had only been sought out once by someone seeking advice on birdfinding in the DC area, so I was unsure of whether Birding Pal was going to work at all. Had anyone registered with Birding Pal in Missouri? Would anyone respond to my plea for help in finding this bird? I got lucky. Communicating through Birding Pal, I was connected to one of the area’s most respected and active birders, Bill Rowe, and he put me in touch with one of his birding buddies, Tom Parmeter, for a morning of birding.

Tom took me out to a conservation area called Columbia Bottom, where the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers meet, and we found the sparrow in a weedy patch after 45 minutes of searching. By the time we finished birding that morning, we had uncovered 73 species, I had a great photo of life bird number 665, and thanks to Birding Pal, I had made the acquaintance of two knowledgeable and generous Missouri birders with whom I hope to chase birds on my own turf some day. The next time you’re headed to unfamiliar territory with birding on the agenda, you might try Birding Pal.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Photo by David Moulton
Hula dancers, volcanoes, and long, sandy beaches . . . they’re the common associations with Hawai’i. The archipelago doesn’t rate highly for most birders because many native species have been in precipitous decline. I barely researched at all before I left—buying a field guide only at the very last moment. I didn’t schedule bird outings with local experts. I decided to leave my birding on the islands of Oahu and Kaua’i in the laps of the gods. Birding, I had firmly resolved, would be secondary to fun and sun.

Or so I thought. As soon as I arrived in Honolulu, my bird antennae began twitching. Mynas were everywhere, and I kept running across striking Red-crested Cardinals. I immediately began late-night research for my budding birding agenda. What were those parrots I heard over by the University? Were those indeed a pair of White Terns I saw flying high above Diamond Head crater? Had I also seen them swooping low in Pearl Harbor? I vowed to carry my binoculars everywhere.

Fortunately, a little research goes a long way on these small islands. On Kaua’i, I easily spotted White-tailed Tropicbirds near every cliff, waterfall, or canyon. And, oh, how magnificent, graceful gliders they are! The endangered Nene is easily found on the Garden Isle also. A quick trip to Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge reveals all four endemic water birds—Hawaiian Coot, Hawaiian Gallinule, Hawaiian Stilt, and Hawaiian Duck. Kilauea National Wildlife Refuge, with its scenic historic lighthouse, is a paradise for seabirds. Unfortunately, by August the nesting Laysan Albatross had left. I did, however, watch an active Red-footed Booby breeding colony. I also spied adult Wedge-tailed Shearwaters on their ground nests, shaded by low scrub. A tiny chick was left alone in its nest, too. My greatest joy at Kilauea was catching the Red-tailed Tropicbirds in courtship flight, which involves flying over and around one another in a circular pattern--a true airborne dance.

On our trek to Waimea Canyon, we luckily spotted a Hawaiian Owl (called a Pueo) hunting near the road. We also found a family of Erckel’s Francolin and a White-rumped Shama on the drive up. Finding forest birds entails a bit more effort on Kaua’i; you must hike far for the honeycreepers in the Alakai Swamp. I settled for a couple of shorter hikes and was rewarded with the Japanese White-eye, at least five Kauai Elepaios, Japanese Bush-warblers, and Kaua’i Akepa. Here an expert guide would have been helpful because at best you get only fleeting glimpses.

My last morning in Honolulu about 30 White Terns, with their panda-black eyes clearly visible, circled low over the sands of Waikiki---an amazing gift from the birds that made me fetch my binoculars.

Birding turnout was strong on this spectacular, dry, warm Sunday, as 22 of us gathered in the parking lot to find and enjoy the birdlife of Sotterley Plantation. This week’s discouraging report in Science Magazine about the decline of birdlife in general - 3 billion fewer birds now than in 1970! - highlighted the importance of preserving open space and grassland habitats such as are found at Sotterley, which has become a go-to spot in St. Mary’s for Eastern Meadowlark in most seasons, and for Grasshopper Sparrow in the breeding season. Sotterley did not disappoint -- we were able to ID 40 species, either by sight or by ear.

We were thrilled to find the Eastern Meadowlarks right away -- in the fields, on the telephone wires, singing on the tops of pasture cedars. Passing through the blossom-filled garden near the mansion, we were treated to a pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds locked in battle over the cleomes. Then, using the telescope, we scanned the long view to the river, picking out a flock of Killdeer in the fields. As we left the garden hilltop, we came face-to-face with a pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos searching for caterpillars in one of the small nut trees. They were moving slowly, skling along the branches, in no hurry to avoid us, allowing for great views of a life-bird for several in the group. Later, at the riverside, we had two Great Blue Herons glide by, along with a magnificent adult Bald Eagle, a rattling Belted Kingfisher, and a lingering Osprey. Other birds of note: an accommodating House Wren, which perched on the farm equipment for a photo op; a less accommodating female Blue Grosbeak, which was browsing for seeds in the goldenrod until she flew; several Eastern Wood-pewees and an Eastern Phoebe.

Good Birding!
David Moulton
October 19 – SATURDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon
FIELD TRIP – YOUTH WELCOME!
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!! Are you tired of wondering, “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 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 Rte. 235 south, then left onto St. James Church road (opposite Mattapany Road). You will see the sign for the Elms Environmental Education Center. Take the road to the end and go through the gates. Meet at the education center. RSVP to Bob Boxwell at Bobboxwell@hotmail.com or 410-610-5124.

October 20 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 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 Rte. 5 West from Leonardtown. Turn left (south) on Rte. 243 (Newtowne Neck Road) for 4.5 miles to parking lot on left just beyond the graveyard and before St. Francis Xavier’s Church. Turn left (south) on Rte. 243 (Newtowne Neck Road) for 4.5 miles to parking lot on left just beyond the graveyard and before St. Francis Xavier’s Church. RSVP to David Moulton at moulton.davidh@gmail.com or 240-278-4473.

November 6 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM
Southern MD RC&D, Suite C, St. Mary’s County
26737 Radio Station Way, Leonardtown, MD 20650
“LAND PRESERVATION AND OUR MILITARY”
MELANIE MCGINNES, Environ. Scientist, NAVAIL ATR
Sustainability Office
Many programs exist that enhance our military readiness while at the same time help to preserve natural lands. Our speaker, also a MD Master Naturalist, will discuss the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program and the Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape initiative, an extended partnership between DoD, USDA, and DOI. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Free event. Inquiries to Tiffany Farrell at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-609-1345.

November 17 - SUNDAY - 8 a.m. - 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Mattawoman Wildlands, Marbury, Charles County
“EARLY WATERFOWL AND LATE MIGRANTS ON THE GEORGE WILMOT TRAIL”
Leader: Lynne Wheeler
This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society and the Southern MD Audubon Society. 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, 3000 Chicamuxen Road, Indian Head, MD 20640 at 7:45 a.m. 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 half-mile walk on uneven forest trail. Make reservation with Lynne at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

November 29 - FRIDAY – 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.
FIELD TRIP – YOUTHS WELCOME!
Myrtle Point Park, St. Mary’s County
“WINTER OWL PROWL ON MYRTLE POINT”
Leader: Bob Boxwell
This trip is co-sponsored with the Friends of Myrtle Point Park and is an annual event which attempts to “call out” the resident owls of the park. Owls are nocturnal, and therefore, not easy to spot. We will meet in front of the park gates and attempt to attract owls by having them respond to recorded calls. Please dress for the weather, but avoid “noisy” clothing (please no snowsuits!). This event is weather dependent. Rain or high winds will result in cancellation, so please RSVP with good phone/email address. To find Myrtle Point Park, take Rt. 4 in St. Mary’s County to Patuxent Boulevard, and follow to the end. RSVP to Bob at Bobboxwell@hotmail.com or 410-610-5124.

December 4 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM
Flag Ponds Nature Center
1525 Flag Ponds Pkwy, Lusby, MD 20657
“2020 BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT”
BBA3 COORDINATOR
The Maryland Ornithological Society’s 3rd MD/DC Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA3) launches January 2020. Come learn how you can help us achieve the best breeding bird data for our third atlas. In our changing environment, breeding data is critical. Awareness of population and nesting changes early can help us take action before it is too late. Come meet your county coordinator, and hear from our BBA3 coordinator the how and the why of such an important project. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Free event. Inquiries to Tiffany Farrell at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-609-1345.
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
- Barn Owl, $25 each
- Northern Saw-whet Owl, $30 each
- American Kestrel, $35 each
- General Donation to Raptor Fund

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:______________________________________________

Mail To: Southern Maryland Audubon Society
Carole Schnitzler
3595 Silk Tree Court, Waldorf, MD 20602

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.

- 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

- 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.