



Note from the board:

Per the by-laws of our society the Board of Directors has approved a three member nominating committee for our upcoming June 3 elections.

We have the positions of President, Secretary and Director to replace. If interested in nominating someone to be considered in becoming a member of our board please contact the chair of the nominating committee below:

Julie Simpson, Chair Email: jsimps@runbox.com

Tim Wells Email: timothw@gmail.com

Lee Vines Email: leevines3@gmail.com

Questions? Send me an email at somdaudubon@yahoo.com I will be happy to explain what a position on our board entails.

Lynne Wheeler, President (5/2019)

The Osprey

Newsletter of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society



Sketch by Carrie Staples

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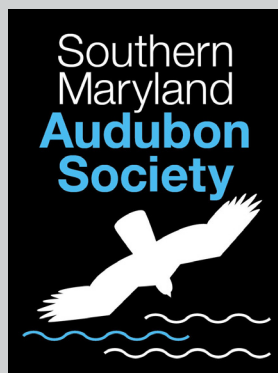
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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

President's Perch

It's Fledging Time



fledge

/flej/

verb: **fledge**; 3rd person present: **fledges**; past tense: **fledged**; past participle: **fledged**; gerund or present participle: **fledging**

Fledge - to acquire the feathers necessary for flight or independent activity; also: to leave the nest after acquiring such feathers.

For birders, nesting season is a treat. The thrill of the arrival of our summer breeders, followed by the joy of watching nest building, hatching, chick feeding, and then fledging, never gets old. I love this time of year!

It is also time for me to fledge from the President's Perch and the officer position of president. My three year term limit, per our by-laws, is reached on June 2, the date of our annual meeting and picnic. We have formed a nominating committee (see list of committee members in this newsletter) for the elections and have one of the best venues to hold our meeting. This year it will be at The Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF), Cafritz Environmental Center. The center is only the 13th project in the world to achieve full Living Building Challenge certification, the most rigorous and ambitious performance standard for buildings on the planet. We are extremely appreciative of the foundation for hosting our annual meeting; a venue that excels in environmental excellence. Thank you AFF!! My BFF forever!!

I have really enjoyed my term and earned every new gray "feather" that popped out (but hidden) along the way. Many of my personal objectives were achieved such as increasing SMAS interaction with like environmental organizations and local government, helping to facilitate the Port Tobacco Eagle Cam, supporting our Youth Outreach committee, and especially board development. We have a team of highly qualified and energetic members who understand the definition of team, are professional, and like to have fun. All volunteer non-profits have huge challenges, but they are met easily when you have board members that are passionate about our mission, and the needed positions are filled. Non-profits continue to soar and thrive when by-laws are properly written and spell out a *flyway to success* by including term limits. This is especially important for the position of president.

Why term limits? The most obvious incentive for nonprofit boards to have term limits is that it brings new blood and a fresh perspective to the board. New board members bring their skills, talents and abilities to the board table. New perspectives may stem from best practices that encourage diversity of background, age, gender, ethnicity or other demographics. Also, parts of our society are advancing quickly, especially with regard

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to technology. Societal or economic changes require boards to continually assess their skill sets to ensure the board remains competent.

Bottom line, this position, more than any other on the board, should always be filled by a new person – it provides for a healthy and long lasting organization. I interact with many other non-profits, and clearly witness that the ones that keep the same officers year after year, or continually recirculate the same members, become stale and do not thrive. We try to follow the guidelines the by-laws give us as much as possible. And just as we learned in school, new genes added to the gene pool are a good thing! So thanks everyone for a fun flight, and please come to our annual meeting and vote for your new board members, and please welcome and support whoever will be your new president and chair. I know I will do everything I can to help them achieve their *flyway to success*.

Lynne Wheeler

Rush for the Thrush

The Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) is a North American bird species with a range stretching from the Pacific region to the northernmost parts of the taiga. “Superficially robin-like,” differing by its short tail; dark orange brow; contrasting black auriculars, nape, and crown; and sporting a “calico wing pattern,” the male is exotic by comparison (Sibley, 2003). Not since 2006 have Maryland birders enjoyed a visit from such a thrush but, this past winter, that was remedied thanks to 12-year-old Zach Stickney, of Leonardtown, Maryland.

Stickney found a male Varied Thrush among a flock of Dark-eyed Juncos in his yard, December 22, 2018. “Although I was surprised, I knew immediately what I was looking at,” Stickney recalls. After snapping a photograph of the bird, he and his dad, Chuck, consulted a field guide. Confident that they had a Varied Thrush in their yard, they uploaded the photo to eBird, and asked for feedback due to the rare sighting, “Tim Carney emailed me very quickly to say it was indeed a Varied Thrush.” And with Carney’s confirmation, the rush for the thrush was on.

Varied Thrush in Maryland

Because these birds are a western species, sightings in Maryland are considered rare. There have been 11 reports of Varied Thrush in Maryland since 1958; however, only some of these reports are verifiable and thus accepted. According to the Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DC RC), the Varied Thrush scorecard for Maryland currently stands as:

- 4 - Accepted (1965-66, 1977, 1987, 2006)
- 1 - Not Accepted (1989)
- 2 - Unreviewable (1978, 1980)
- 1 - Reviewable (1970-71)
- 1 - Ready (2018-19, this year’s bird)

(Note: there are no records prior to 1958 and the committee was established in 1983.)

If this year’s sighting of the bird is accepted, it will be the fifth accepted record of a Varied Thrush in Maryland. Phil Davis, Secretary of the MD/DC RC, explains, the committee maintains review lists for Maryland and DC (<https://bit.ly/2HR3xPI>) that “indicate for which species the committee wishes to receive documentation for official record reviews.” The bar for official record acceptance is “quite high,” says Davis. Nine voting members review reports which, “can be accepted unanimously on the first round,” or they can be voted on three more times, “with only one dissenting vote allowed for acceptance, except for a last (fourth) round which can have two dissenting votes.” This is also the process for the addition of new state, “first” species, records to the Maryland and DC lists.

Before the MD/DC RC was formed, five sightings of Varied Thrush were reported. The committee reviewed and accepted two of these reports because they were documented in detail. Davis explains that even though the remaining three reports were cited in ornithological journals, “detailed documentation was either never produced or [it was] never located and provided to the committee.” Two were entered into the MD/DC RC database as “Unreviewable” due to the lack of documentation, and one still remains in a “Reviewable” status because it was observed on a Christmas Bird Count and, according to Davis, “the committee still has some hope of, perhaps, locating documentation in someone’s archives.” The committee’s classification process allows for the opportunity “to capture all known information in [the] database and to save all related documentation in [the] data repository for future researchers.”

A Flock Descends on Leonardtown

The last Varied Thrush to visit Maryland appeared at a feeder in the yard of a private residence in 2006. Unfortunately, the homeowners were unable to accommodate many visitors, so few were able to experience the bird. “It has been a long time since a Varied Thrush was chaseable in Maryland,” says Matt Hafner, Chair of the MD/DC RC. That fact, combined with an increase in active birders, due to eBird and social media, and “the showstopping plumage of a male Varied Thrush,” added Hafner, paved the way for this bird “to be a regional celebrity.”

According to eBird, over 100 birders saw the most recent thrush, compared to around 20 in 2006. One reason for this increase in views was due to the hospitality provided to visiting birders by the Stickney family and their neighbors. After reporting the thrush and receiving confirmation of identification, the Stickneys were notified of the potential attention that this bird would draw to their community. Therefore, they notified their neighbors, settled on parking and hours of observation and, according to Chuck Stickney, “there was zero negative reaction to the birders by anyone in the neighborhood and we had no instances of uncourteous behavior by any birders. Overall it was a great experience for [us] and our neighbors.”

Zach Stickney found the experience of hosting a Varied Thrush amazing because out of any region, state, or county, the thrush chose his house, a birder’s house, to visit. “Perhaps if it chose another house, no one would have ever known that he was here,” says Stickney.

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Death by Glass

Tragically, Maryland's first Varied Thrush in over 10 years, met its demise by flying into a window. As Kurt Schwarz, Conservation Committee Chair, commented, "its celebrity status could not save it from the fate met by many much more common birds." Schwarz says that "collisions with glass constitute the second greatest source of human-associated mortality for birds," and an estimated one billion birds die annually because of untreated windows. "Many think that if only one or two birds a year are killed by their windows, it's just a drop in the bucket. But multiply that by millions of homes, not to mention office buildings, skyscrapers, etc. and a billion birds per year is soon reached. Studies have shown that the bulk of window kills occur at buildings under five stories, and residences."

The solutions to window kills are effective, easy, and inexpensive. Please visit <https://safeskiesmaryland.org> and <http://www.lightsoutbaltimore.org> for more information. Volunteers are available to assist those who want to decrease the amount of birds killed by window collisions. Schwarz encourages the birding community to take an active role in protecting birds by contacting lawmakers, at both the state and federal levels, to let them know that we want bird safe building legislation enacted. There are bills to do just that in both Annapolis, and in the U.S. Congress. The time to act is now.

The Varied Thrush will live on through science at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History bird collection.

O. Estrada, Editor "The Maryland Yellowthroat"



Photo by H David Fleischmann



Photo by Kyle Rambo

Google Searches Reveal Popular Bird Species

Knowledge may help fine-tune conservation messages
April 15, 2019 Cornell University

Cross-referencing a decade of Google searches and citizen science observations, researchers have determined which of 621 North American bird species are currently the most popular and which characteristics of species drive human interest.

People do more Google searches for owls than any other type of bird.

Cross-referencing a decade of Google searches and citizen science observations, researchers have determined which of 621 North American bird species are currently the most popular and which characteristics of species drive human interest. Study findings have just been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Google Trends data describe how often people search for birds and provide a snapshot of public interest in different species," says researcher Justin Schuetz, Cornell alum and lead author of the study. "In general, large birds, such as hawks and grouse drew more attention than small birds. People also expressed more interest in birds that visit feeders, are endangered, or have been chosen as sports team mascots. In addition, we found that owls -- more than any other group of birds -- were the subject of public curiosity."

Surmising that people would probably search more often for birds they encountered frequently, the authors turned to eBird for the geographical piece of the puzzle. eBird is a global citizen science database of bird observations managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

They pooled the results into four categories which Schuetz and Johnston call "cultural niche space," based on how frequently people searched for a species relative to how often they might encounter it in nature.

Though proximity to a species often plays a role in shaping public interest, the authors also found that some "celebrity" species, such as Common Raven, Barn Owl, and Whooping Crane, are popular even outside their range.

Co-author and Cornell Lab of Ornithology researcher Alison Johnston notes that Google data cannot reveal the underlying motivations for searches but knowing which species capture public interest matters for conservation. "Conservation shouldn't be a popularity contest," explains Johnston. "But we can start to understand why some species garner more attention than others. Then the challenge to conservationists is to raise awareness around lesser-known species."

Understanding people's interest in different bird species can also help conservation organizations focus their efforts, says Schuetz. For example, "conservation groups might want to identify species in need of help that are regionally well-known but don't have a reputation beyond that region. These species could be good candidates for stewardship programs that encourage a sense of regional pride."

[Editor's Note: To read the article online, visit this link: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/04/190415163936.htm>]

Justin G. Schuetz, Alison Johnston. **Characterizing the cultural niches of North**

American birds. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2019; 201820670 DOI: [10.1073/pnas.1820670116](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1820670116)

Credit: © Frantiek /Fotolia



Birding in Belize

by Tiffany Farrell

For several years I have longed to bird among Mayan ruins. After completing a grueling work project, I indulged my fantasy and booked a tour with Paradise Expeditions, a company run by a local family. As soon as I exited the airport in Belize City, elegant Fork-tailed Flycatchers hunted near the airstrip. Indeed, the density of birds there is overwhelming---especially in March, when many that breed in the United States and Canada are still preparing for migration. Our expert guide, Andy Tutt, identified a mind-boggling number of species---261 in just a week.

Crowning my target list was the magnificent Jabiru, a stork that stands five feet tall. Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, a wetland, produced six Jabiru in the first five minutes. Other notable lifers in that brief visit included Snail Kites, Ringed Kingfisher, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Limpkin, and Russet-naped Wood Rail. Wood Storks, which had eluded me in Costa Rica, were feeding there by the dozens.

From Crooked Tree we continued onward to the Rio Bravo Conservation Area to explore La Milpa, a classical Mayan site that the jungle has reclaimed. The only hint of ruins are the great mounds of soil in the remote forest. Birding there has an almost timeless feel. A troop of Spider Monkeys, many carrying babies, kept tabs on us as they foraged high in the canopy. A flock of Brown-hooded Parrots raised a great ruckus. In the distance Howler Monkeys announced their territory.

At La Milpa we found three species of Trogon---Gartered, Slaty-tailed, and Black-headed, as well as Red-capped Manakin, Tody Motmot, and Rufous-tailed Jacamar. We also saw our first Keel-billed Toucans, the national bird of Belize, whose frog-like song became the soundtrack of our week. An Ornate Hawk Eagle flew over several times. Unfortunately, the thick vegetation prevented better views. Great Curassows were abundant, and an Ocellated Turkey strutted proudly across the track. Back at the lodge, I could have stared for hours at fruit feeders that hosted euphonias, orioles, and tanagers. Nearby a pair of dainty Green Honeycreepers bathed in rainwater caught in a bromeliad.

After La Milpa, we drove back through agricultural fields and villages settled by Mennonites---a habitat that welcomed more Fork-tailed Flycatchers, but also grassquits and the stunning Vermilion Flycatcher. Thereafter we settled in to Crystal Paradise Resort near San Ignacio, where the Tutt family warmly welcomed us.

Sited along the Macal River in the Cayo District, the property of the lodge offers great birding of its own. Yet we rose every day before dawn to explore verdant parks. At Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve we hiked out to a mountain top perch. With an expansive view, I imagined being a raptor myself. Scanning for miles, we spied White Hawks, a Great Black Hawk, Double-toothed Kite, and Plumbeous Kite gliding over the valley, often below us. King Vultures wheeled so closely they practically winked.

We then picnicked at Thousand-foot Falls, which sported an impressive cliffside platform. This area is an important nesting ground for the rare Orange-breasted Falcon, which conservationists breed and reintroduce here. Given the small population, we were incredibly lucky one appeared overhead. The pine habitat also offered many new passerines, including Rufous-capped, Grace's, and Blue-winged Warblers, Black-headed Siskin, Rusty Sparrow, and Black-faced Grosbeak.

In other areas, more adventures followed. Something I missed in Crooked Tree, a Bare-throated Tiger Heron, skulked as it emerged from a flooded rice field. We spied a Bat Falcon incubating eggs in a palm tree, and several Laughing Falcons perched prominently---one duo even chuckling on cue for us. Late afternoons at the lodge afforded slower paced, solo birding. There I spotted the Band-backed Wren and Golden-olive Woodpecker, which we had found nowhere else. Fruit feeders encouraged interactions with Lesson's Motmot, a family of Collared Aracari, and even a local Gray Fox.

Caracol, the highlight of my journey, is the largest Mayan ruin in Belize. There the Montezuma Oropendola performed its classic behavior---singing while diving downward on its perch. A single huge tree hosted about a dozen or more of their pendulous, woven nests---all in the shadow of magnificent Mayan structures. If not for our excellent guide, I would have completely missed another target bird---the Northern Emerald Toucanet---a pair of which foraged, perfectly camouflaged, in a nearby tree.

The main pyramid at Caracol, Caana (or "sky palace"), is 150 feet high and remains the tallest building in Belize. Climbing to its summit, though challenging, resulted in another exhilarating bird's eye view. From here, Guatemala's denuded mountain tops contrasted with Belize's lush forest. As I was catching my breath atop Caana, two Swallow-tailed Kites soared immediately above---their heavenly ballet a propitious farewell.

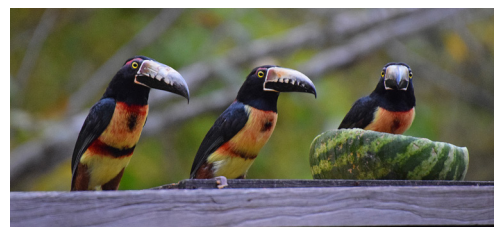
Birding in Belize with Paradise Expeditions
<http://www.birdinginbelize.com/>
BirdingInBelize.com Crystal Paradise Resort
www.crystalparadise.com



Ocellated Turkey

Collared Aracari trio

Photos by Tiffany Farrell



Species Unseen for 47 Years Rediscovered Near Colombian Town Named for Miracles

by Wendy Willis, American Bird Conservancy, Deputy Director of International Programs, 540-253-5780 wwillis@abcbirds.org



Lost bird, found: The Antioquia Brushfinch had eluded observers since it was described as a new species 12 years ago.

Photos by Sergio Chaparro-Herrera

(Washington, D.C., April 12, 2019) The Antioquia Brushfinch, a rusty-crowned Colombian songbird described as a new species 12 years ago, based solely on old museum specimens, eluded scientists until it was documented for the first time in the wild in January 2018. This discovery will be published later this year in the scientific journal *Cotinga*, in an article by researchers Rodolfo Correa Peña, Sergio Chaparro-Herrera, Andrea Lopera-Salazar, and Juan L. Parra.

Previously known only from three museum specimens collected as recently as 1971, the Antioquia Brushfinch was originally classified as belonging to a more widespread brushfinch species.

The first living bird of this newly described species was originally observed by Rodolfo Correa Peña on Jan. 7, 2018, as he was walking to Sunday mass. Documenting photos were taken the same month. Since then, the Colombian researchers have found additional birds in four patches of remnant habitat, all within the municipality of San Pedro de los Milagros – which translates to Saint Peter of Miracles – in the department of Antioquia.

The Antioquia Brushfinch was first described by ornithologist Thomas Donegan in 2007, after a review of brushfinch specimens in South American and European collections. Donegan noticed three specimens labeled from San Pedro de los Milagros and “Antioquia” generally that were marked as representing the widespread Slaty Brushfinch, but looked different. Two of these specimens were undated, and one was collected in 1971. Many feared that the species “discovered” in the museum drawers was extinct, after several searches over the last 12 years failed to find it.

“Rodolfo Correa Peña’s rediscovery of the Antioquia Brushfinch – seeing it alive for the first time since it’s been declared a distinct species – was a miracle. And he first spotted the brushfinch on his way to Sunday mass!” says Wendy Willis, American Bird Conservancy’s (ABC’s) Deputy Director of International Programs. “It is also remarkable that this species occurs just outside the greater metropolitan area of Medellín, home to more than 3.7 million people, and that it has gone unnoticed until now.”

American Bird Conservancy has supported the research team’s efforts to find more populations of this brushfinch since October 2018, as part of a larger effort to rediscover and conserve “lost” birds. The search for new subpopulations, led by Sergio Chaparro-Herrera, continues. Additionally, the team is investigating the bird’s breeding behavior and the possible threat of nest parasitism by Shiny Cowbirds, which lay their eggs in other birds’ nests, often to the detriment of the hosts’ own young. This research is being conducted with support from a Skutch Research Award from the Association of Field Ornithologists.

Little habitat remains for the Antioquia Brushfinch, which is internationally recognized as a Critically Endangered species. Seventy-three percent of the land cover within the municipality of San Pedro de los Milagros has been converted to cattle pasture. Remaining habitat is under severe threat of conversion for pasture and cropland. While four populations of this species have been identified, fewer than 20 individual birds have been found so far.

“Despite the challenges, American Bird Conservancy is quite optimistic that the Antioquia Brushfinch can be saved from extinction,” says Daniel Lebbin, ABC’s Vice President of Threatened Species. “Colombian researchers now know what kind of habitat to search and are continuing to find more birds. This brushfinch species is persisting in fairly small patches of low scrub close to people. Opportunities to protect remaining habitat patches as new reserves and to quickly restore working lands using silvipasture techniques [combining trees, forage, and livestock] hold great potential to benefit this species, but action must be taken quickly,” Lebbin says.

Similarly range-restricted and related species provide prime examples of how this species can be saved. “Jocotoco Foundation, ABC’s partner in Ecuador, proved that we could bring back tiny populations of the imperiled Pale-headed Brushfinch through protection and management,” says Lebbin. At the time of the rediscovery of the Pale-headed Brushfinch, fewer than 70 individuals remained. But with proper management and land protection and restoration, this species rebounded and now numbers more than 200.

ABC and the research team are planning immediate actions to prevent the extinction of the Antioquia Brushfinch, including land protection, habitat restoration, and additional searches. If you would like to help, please consider donating to support ABC’s work to help us advance this project and many others to conserve native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas.

[Editor’s Note: To read the article online, visit this link: <https://tinyurl.com/brushfinch>]

American Bird Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. With an emphasis on achieving results and working in partnership, we take on the greatest problems facing birds today, innovating and building on rapid advancements in science to halt extinctions, protect habitats, eliminate threats, and build capacity for bird conservation. Find us on abcbirds.org, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (@ABCbirds).

2019 Field Trips and Programs

May 18 – SATURDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP – NEW!

American Chestnut Land Trust, Calvert County
676 Double Oak Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

“Warblers and Spring Migration”

Leader: Judy Ferris and Jan Degeneffe

Join us for one of our dazzling nature gems in Calvert County! ACLT, located just minutes from Prince Frederick, has 22 miles of trails across a 3,000 acre preserve. Explore this spectacular property via woodland paths in search of warblers and other neotropical songbirds. Bird migration will be strong, but so will the flood of breeding birds singing to establish and defend nesting territories. Depending on trail conditions, we may hike 2-3 miles. Muddy spots and insects are possible. Meet at the parking lot at the American Chestnut Land Trust Office. DIRECTIONS: From Route 4 in Prince Frederick, turn east onto Dares Beach Road/MD 402 (opposite Safeway). Go straight thru round-about. Continue 2.4 miles to Double Oak Road. Turn right onto Double Oak Road. Continue 1.5 miles to a signed gate and a dirt road on the left. Turn left onto the dirt road. Continue 0.4 miles to gravel parking area. RSVP to Judy at jferris11@gmail.com or 410-474-0368.

May 31 - FRIDAY – 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENT 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 Flag Ponds gate. RSVP to Andy at Andrew.Brown@calvertcountymd.gov or 443-624-3687.

June 2 – SUNDAY – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

**Alice Ferguson Foundation, Cafritz Environmental Center,
Prince George’s County**

2201 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607



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

Bring your family, friends, and a favorite dish and join us at the Cafritz Environmental Center. It is only the 13th project in the world to achieve full Living Building Challenge certification, the most rigorous and ambitious performance standard for buildings on the planet. To qualify, a structure must operate for a full year proving that it operates at net-zero energy and net-zero water in addition to being carbon neutral, using construction materials that are non-toxic and non-polluting and meeting numerous other environmental and social criteria. We are so excited to be able to share this innovative state-of-the-art building to our members, as well as a gorgeous location on the Potomac River. No rsvp required. All SMAS events are open to the public. For inquiries contact Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

June 25– TUESDAY - 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

FIELD TRIP - FULL

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 16 people. Cost: \$26/person, payable the day of, in cash. Pre-register with Lynne at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (email or text preferred).

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Due to a glitch in the membership database at the National Audubon Society, the new members list won’t appear in this issue. Watch for a larger than usual list in the September issue!



PROCREATION!
Photo by Mike Rudy

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 smdaudubon.org for this new option.



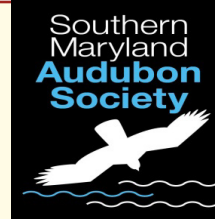
Osprey
 Photo by Bill Hubick

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.

2018-2019 Officers

President, Lynne Wheeler - 301.743.3236; 301.751.8097
 Vice-President, Margarita Rochow - 240.577.1748
 Treasurer, Will Daniel - 240.435.1384
 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:

- 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