

Birding in Southern Maryland

Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's
and Southern Prince George's Counties



Produced by
Southern Maryland Audubon Society



Birding in Southern Maryland

This brochure was especially designed for birders. If you are traveling through and have the urge to bird for a while, we hope this brochure will help you locate some spots local birders enjoy without wasting time looking for them.

Our list in the back of this brochure includes some less common sightings as well as resident and migrant birds.

If you are a resident birder, we hope you will eventually be able to put a checkmark beside each species.

Good Birding!

NOTE: Any birds sighted which are not on the checklist in the back of this brochure or are marked with an asterisk should be reported to gmjett@comcast.net. Species notations, such as preferred habitat and seasonality are listed at the end of the checklist in the back of this brochure.



Olive Sorzano

1920-1989

This brochure is dedicated to the memory of Olive Sorzano, a charter member of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society from 1971 until her death in 1989. A warm, generous, kind and thoughtful person, Olive came to represent the very soul of Southern Maryland Audubon. Throughout the years, she held various positions on the Board of Directors and willingly helped with nearly all activities of the growing chapter. She attended every membership meeting and every field trip, always making sure that new members were made welcome and novice birders were encouraged and assisted. Living on the Potomac River in Fenwick, a wooded community in Bryans Road, Maryland, she studied her land and water birds, keeping a daily list of what she saw or heard with her phenomenal ears. She had a life list of over 400 species and loved to see a new bird, but her real joy was observing the beauty of birds and watching unusual behavior. Olive would have been pleased to think of her friends and fellow birders developing this guide in her memory—a guide to help others discover the riches of birding in Southern Maryland.

Calvert County

1 CALVERT CLIFFS STATE PARK

Deciduous forest, swamp, sandy beach. Go 14 mi. south of Prince Frederick. Look for Park sign and turn left. Entrance off of H.G. Truman Hwy.

2 BATTLE CREEK CYPRESS SWAMP SANCTUARY

Cypress swamp with elevated boardwalk. On Rt. 4 go 2.2 mi. south of Prince Frederick turn right on Sixes Road. Go 1.8 mi. Turn left on Gray's Road. Sanctuary 0.2 mi. on right.

3 FLAG PONDS NATURE PARK

Mixed forest, freshwater ponds, marsh, swamp, sandy beach. Go 10 mi. south of Prince Frederick on Rt. 4. Turn left on Flag Ponds Pkwy. Fee per vehicle.

4 JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK

Agricultural and fallow fields, hedgerows, river view and woodland trails. Go 4 mi. south of Prince Frederick on Rt. 4. Turn right on Broomes Island Rd (MD 264). Go 2 mi. Turn left on Mackall Rd. (MD 265). Go 6 mi. turn right into park at sign.

5 PATUXENT RIVER NRMA

Agricultural and fallow fields; woodland edges, hedgerows, river view. From Rt. 2/4 intersection, take Lower Marlboro Rd. Go left on Mill Branch Rd. Right on Smoky Rd. to parking lot.

6 SOLOMONS FISHING PIER

River view and small pond. Go 20 mi. south of Prince Frederick on Rt. 4. Right turn under Thomas Johnson Bridge. Free parking.

Calvert County-road side

- ① **AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST**
Gravatt Tract Deciduous/mixed woodlands, swampy lowlands, fields. Go 5 mi. south of Prince Frederick on Rt. 4, turn left on Parker's Creek Rd. Go 0.25 mi. Turn right on Scientists' Cliffs Rd. One mile to parking lot.
- ② **AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST**
Double Oak Deciduous woodlands, swampy lowlands, agricultural fields, trails to salt marsh by Parker's Creek. In Prince Frederick go east on Dare's Beach Rd. Go 5 mi. to Double Oak Rd. Turn right; follow signs to Double Oak Farm. Parking lot and trail.
- ③ **NORTH BEACH MARSHES/BOARDWALK**
Mudflats, salt marsh, bay views.

Marshes - From Prince Frederick, go north on Rt. 4; right on Rt. 2. Right on Rt. 260. In North Beach, turn left on 261. Marshy area is on left just outside town.
Boardwalk - From Rt. 261, turn right on 1st street to boardwalk. Parking available.

Charles County

1 SMALLWOOD PARK

Trails through mixed forest; thickets Mattawoman Creek, swamps, fields, From La Plata take Rt. 225. Go 8.7 mi.; make left on Rt. 224. Go 3.8 mi. Park sign is on right. Facilities/Fee.

2 MYRTLE GROVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Lake, ponds, fields, swamps, thickets, mixed forest. From La Plata, take Rt. 225 (Hawthorn Rd.) 5.4 mi. Turn right at sign. Parking 1.1 mi. down a dirt road. Trails throughout. Hunting permitted.

3 MATTAWOMAN WILDLAND

Path through hardwoods to Mattawoman Creek, tidal marshlands. From La Plata go 8.6 mi. on Rt. 225. Make left on Rt. 224. Go 1 mi. Sign and path on right. Park on grass off shoulder of road.

4 CHAPMAN STATE PARK

Mixed mature forest on Potomac River. Swamps, fields, thickets, steep slopes. From Capital Beltway, take Rt. 210 south 16 mi. Turn right on Chapmans Landing Road, follow 1.5 mi. to park sign on right. Park outside gates. Approx. 1 mi. walk to river.

5 MAXWELL HALL

Nine miles of diverse trails; open fields, wooded areas, steep terrain, shoreline, beach, rest locations and a trail course. From Hughesville, go 5.5 mi. on Rt. 231 toward Benedict. Turn left onto Maxwell Hall Drive; right onto Maxwell Hall Place. Follow sign to parking area.

Prince George's County

1 PISCATAWAY PARK/NATIONAL COLONIAL FARM

Open/agricultural fields, swamp, Potomac River access, deciduous woods. From Capital Beltway, go south on Rt. 210 8.8 mi. Veer right on Bryan Point Rd. exit. Follow arrows; go 3.5 mi. to park entrance. Go 0.5 more mi. to farm parking.

2 COSCA REGIONAL PARK

Mixed forest trails. From Rt. 5 in Clinton take Piscataway Rd. west. Go 3.3 mi. Make left on Tippet Rd. Go 1.8 mi. to park entrance.

Charles County-road side

- 1 ALLEN'S FRESH**
Roadside stop to view open tidal waters/marsh. From La Plata, go 9 mi. south on Rt. 301. Turn left on Rt. 234. Go 1 mi. to Allen's Fresh Run.
- 2 PORT TOBACCO COURTHOUSE/
CHAPEL POINT STATE PARK**
Thickets, fields, deciduous growth, grassy area around swamp. Park goes to Potomac River. From La Plata, take Rt. 6 2.2 mi. Veer left onto Chapel Point Rd. Go 0.1 mi.; courthouse on right. Proceed 3.6 mi. to park entrance on right. Good roadside birding along the way.
- 3 COBB ISLAND**
View inlet from area near bridge onto island. View Potomac River from common area at the end of Cobb Island Rd. From Rt. 301 take Rt. 257, 11 mi. to bridge onto island. Proceed through housing area for views of the river.
- 4 BUMPY OAK SWAMP**
Large swamp viewable from roadside. From La Plata, take Rt. 225. Go 3.4 mi. Make right on Rt. 227. Make immediate left onto Bumpy Oak Road. Go 3.1 mi. to swamp at railroad tracks.
- 3 JUG BAY NATURAL AREA/PATUXENT RIVER PARK**
Trails/boardwalks through fresh water tidal marshes, mixed forest, meadows, swamps. From Rt. 301 in Upper Marlboro, turn onto Rt. 382 (Croom Rd.). Go 4 mi. Turn left onto Croom Airport Rd. Follow signs to park. Entrance is on left. Fee area.



St. Mary's County

1 ST. MARY'S CITY

Trails thru mixed hardwood forest; located on St. Mary's River. From Lexington Park take Rt. 235 south 5.9 mi. Turn right on Mattapany Rd. Continue 2.1 mi. to intersection with Rt. 5; turn left. Turn right onto Rosecroft Road. Make right in 0.2 mi. onto Hogaboom Lane to Historic St. Mary's City Visitor's Center for trail information.

2 GREENWELL STATE PARK

Agricultural fields, hardwoods, Patuxent River shore. From Lexington Park take Rt. 235 north. Go 9.1 mi. Turn right on Rt. 245; continue 2.3 mi. Right on Steerhorn Neck Rd. Go 0.6 mi. to parking lot; 1 mi. to entrance. Fee area.

3 MYRTLE POINT COUNTY PARK

Beach area, marsh, mixed forest, second growth habitats. From Lexington Park take Rt. 235 north 4.5 mi. to Rt. 4 north. Go 0.5 miles on Rt. 4; make left onto North Patuxent Blvd. Go 1.5 mi. to end of road and gate to park. Park is closed Dec 1 to Mar 1.

4 ELMS BEACH

Public Beach on Chesapeake Bay. Closed in winter; walk in. From Lexington Park take Rt. 235 south 7.3 miles. Left on Bay Forest Road. Entrance 1.3 mi. on left.

5 ST. MARY'S RIVER STATE PARK

Reservoir; trails through mixed woods.

5A From Leonardtown take Rt. 5 south 7 mi. to Camp Cosoma Road; turn left. Entrance at end of road. Fee area.

5B From Camp Cosoma Road go 2.5 miles turn left on Rt. 471 to reach wildlands portion of park. Mixed woods/abandoned farm. Go 1.7 mi. to 1st parking lot; 2.8 mi. to 2nd parking lot.

6 POINT LOOKOUT STATE PARK

Fall staging point for migrants. Loblolly forest, mixed woods, marshes on Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River. From Lexington Park take Rt. 235 south 13.3 mi. to Rt. 5. Turn left. Go to end of Rt. 5 to park entrance. Fee area.

St. Mary's County-road side

- ① LONG NECK ROAD**
Agricultural area often with wet fields. From Lexington Park take Rt. 235 south 13.3 mi. to Rt. 5. Turn left; go 2.5 mi.; road is on left.
- ② CORNFIELD HARBOR ROAD**
Agricultural with brackish marsh. From Lexington Park take Rt. 235 south 13.3 miles to Rt. 5 south; turn left. Go 3.2 mi; right on Cornfield Harbor Rd. Go 1 mi.; turn left on Cornfield Harbor Drive to marshes.
- ③ BRETON BEACH/ABELL'S WHARF ROADS**
Rural/agricultural with hardwoods/ponds. Abell's Wharf has public boat launch with parking. From Leonardtown take Rt. 5 south 2 mi. Turn right on Rt. 244 (Medley's Neck Rd.). Go 2.1 mi.; turn right on Breton Beach Road. Turn right in .4 mi on Abell's Wharf Rd.
- ④ ST. GEORGE ISLAND/PINEY POINT ROAD**
Piney Point has sandy beaches/brackish marshes on Potomac River. From Leonardtown take Rt. 5 south 8.3 mi; make right on Rt. 249 south; right in 7.6 mi. onto Lighthouse Rd. Parking at lighthouse. St. George Island—loblolly pine stands/brackish marshes. Take Rt. 249 to end; parking by bridge. Good stops on Piney Point Rd. or public pier is 500 feet from the end of Thomas Road.
- ⑤ HURRY/BUSHWOOD/BUSHWOOD WHARF ROADS**
Agricultural area/mixed hardwoods. Wharf on Wicomico River. From Leonardtown take Rt. 5 north 2.3 mi, Turn left on Rt. 234; go 3.5 mi. Turn left on Rt. 242. Go 1.4 mi. Turn right on Hurry Road. Go 1.2 mi.; turn left on Bushwood Road. Go 3.3 mi. Turn right on Rt. 239 to wharf. Public pier with parking.

R = Year-Round Resident, W = Winter Resident, S = Summer Resident, M = Migrant

● Wood Margins, Hedgerows, Scrub

● Fresh Marshes, Reservoirs, Rivers, Ponds

● Agricultural, Fields and Pastures

● Forests, Floodplains and Swamps

● Estuaries, Bay, Jetties, Salt Marshes, Tidal and Mud Flats * = Rarity

SPECIES LOCATIONS

❑ Snow Goose	W	● ● ●
❑ Cackling Goose*	W	● ● ●
❑ Canada Goose	R	● ● ●
❑ Mute Swan	R	● ● ●
❑ Tundra Swan	W	● ● ●
❑ Wood Duck	S	● ● ●
❑ Gadwall	W	● ● ●
❑ American Wigeon	W	● ● ●
❑ American Black Duck	R	● ● ●
❑ Mallard	R	● ● ●
❑ Blue-winged Teal	W	● ● ●
❑ Northern Shoveler	W	● ● ●
❑ Northern Pintail	W	● ● ●
❑ Green-winged Teal	W	● ● ●
❑ Canvasback	W	● ● ●
❑ Redhead	W	● ● ●
❑ Ring-necked Duck	W	● ● ●
❑ Greater Scaup	W	● ● ●
❑ Lesser Scaup	W	● ● ●
❑ Harlequin Duck*	W	● ● ●
❑ Surf Scoter	W	● ● ●
❑ White-winged Scoter	W	● ● ●
❑ Black Scoter	W	● ● ●
❑ Long-tailed Duck	W	● ● ●
❑ Bufflehead	W	● ● ●
❑ Common Goldeneye	W	● ● ●
❑ Hooded Merganser	W	● ● ●
❑ Common Merganser	W	● ● ●
❑ Red-breasted Merganser	W	● ● ●
❑ Ruddy Duck	W	● ● ●
❑ Wild Turkey	R	● ● ●
❑ Northern Bobwhite	R	● ● ●
❑ Red-throated Loon	W	● ● ●
❑ Common Loon	W	● ● ●
❑ Pied-billed Grebe	W	● ● ●
❑ Horned Grebe	W	● ● ●
❑ Northern Gannet	W	● ● ●
❑ Brown Pelican*	R	● ● ●
❑ Double-crested Cormorant	R	● ● ●

SPECIES LOCATIONS

❑ Great Cormorant	W	● ● ●
❑ American Bittern*	M	● ● ●
❑ Least Bittern*	S	● ● ●
❑ Great Blue Heron	R	● ● ●
❑ Great Egret	S	● ● ●
❑ Snowy Egret	S	● ● ●
❑ Little Blue Heron	M	● ● ●
❑ Tricolored Heron*	M	● ● ●
❑ Cattle Egret	S	● ● ●
❑ Green Heron	S	● ● ●
❑ Black-crowned Night-Heron	S	● ● ●
❑ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*	S	● ● ●
❑ Glossy Ibis	M	● ● ●
❑ Black Vulture	R	● ● ●
❑ Turkey Vulture	R	● ● ●
❑ Osprey	S	● ● ●
❑ Bald Eagle	R	● ● ●
❑ Northern Harrier	W	● ● ●
❑ Sharp-shinned Hawk	W	● ● ●
❑ Cooper's Hawk	R	● ● ●
❑ Red-shouldered Hawk	S	● ● ●
❑ Broad-winged Hawk	S	● ● ●
❑ Red-tailed Hawk	R	● ● ●
❑ Rough-legged Hawk*	W	● ● ●
❑ American Kestrel	R	● ● ●
❑ Merlin	W	● ● ●
❑ Peregrine Falcon*	R	● ● ●
❑ Clapper Rail	S	● ● ●
❑ King Rail	S	● ● ●
❑ Virginia Rail	R	● ● ●
❑ Sora	M	● ● ●
❑ American Coot	W	● ● ●
❑ Black-bellied Plover	M	● ● ●
❑ American Golden-Plover	M	● ● ●
❑ Semipalmated Plover	M	● ● ●
❑ Killdeer	R	● ● ●
❑ Greater Yellowlegs	M	● ● ●
❑ Lesser Yellowlegs	M	● ● ●
❑ Solitary Sandpiper	M	● ● ●

<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	R	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery	M	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush	M	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicknell's Thrush	M	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	M	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	W	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush	S	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mockingbird	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Warbler	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-winged Warbler*	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler*	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Parula	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Blue Warbler	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Warbler	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Warbler	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Warbler	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler*	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Cerulean Warbler*	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Prothonotary Warbler	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Worm-eating Warbler	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Waterthrush	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Warbler	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut Warbler*	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler*	M	● ● ● ●

<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	R	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Warbler	S	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	M	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler	M	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-breasted Chat	S	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Tanager	S	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	S	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	R	● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow*	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow*	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Seaside Sparrow	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Lapland Longspur*	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Bunting*	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Grosbeak	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel*	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	M	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Boat-tailed Grackle*	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	S	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin	W	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	R	● ● ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	R	● ● ● ●

Notes

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Southern Maryland Audubon Society

visit our website at
www.somdaudubon.org

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