

The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

President's Perch



Snowy Owl
Photo by Steve Arthur

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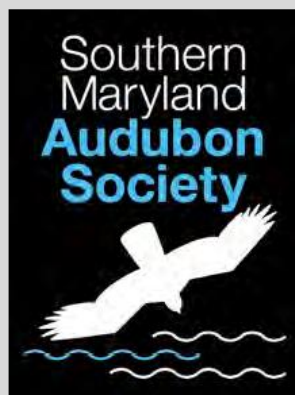
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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

We have “egg-citing” news! As of February 14, our “reality TV” Bald Eagle family is incubating its third egg of the season! If we are lucky, in about a month, we will have hatchlings at Port Tobacco River Park. Tune in to our nest cam via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPI9mWmmc7M> to catch the action live. Want to learn all about Bald Eagle nesting and other behavior you see there? Ask your questions of our experts during their chat sessions on Mondays and Fridays, 3 pm to 5 pm and on Wednesday mornings, 9 am to 11 am. If you'd like to learn about Bald Eagles—and hopefully see them in person—join our field trip on March 19. Families with kids are welcome!

Our full spring calendar at <https://www.somdaudubon.org/about-us/program-brochures/> offers an array of field trips, lectures, and other outings, including the ever-popular Barn Owl chicks (if the nests are successful) and new ones targeting spring warblers. SMAS is also partnering with friends in Calvert County in an Osprey and Nature Festival at Drum Point on Saturday, April 2 from 11 am to 4 pm. Check out their website at <https://marylandospreyfestival.org/> for more details.

If you prefer to venture solo, then keep your eyes peeled for birds in courtship, nest building, brooding, or feeding young. In a few simple steps you can help record breeding birds. This year marks year three of the five-year Breeding Bird Atlas project, and spring is when the action really gears up. To get started, find your county coordinator in the list at <https://ebird.org/atlasmdcc/about/county-coordinators>.

If our gardening friends are like me, by February they are ogling seed catalogs and dreaming of spring planting. Please consider our local insects and birds in your plans! Native flora supports our whole ecosystem. To identify the best native plants for your garden, check National Audubon Society's database at <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants> and punch in your zip code. Once you have your list, check out local suppliers like Chesapeake Natives at <http://chesapeake natives.org/> in Upper Marlboro.

SMAS offers plant-related events to help spread the word. In a Zoom meeting on March 2, we will host Chris Frye from MD DNR to talk about rare plants. A bit later, on May 4, our monthly program will include an evening walk through the native plant gardens at College of Southern Maryland—the first Bird Campus in the state. I hope we will see you outdoors soon!

Tiffany Farrell
President, Southern Maryland Audubon Society

Bird Protections Restored, and Key Process Advances to Strengthen Rules

by Erik Schneider, Policy Manager, National Audubon Society

After bringing back critical protections in the century-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act, policymakers are considering changes that will build on the law for the future.

The most significant and damaging rollback of bird protections in our history is finally, officially, gone. This month, the Biden administration's repeal of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) rollback went into effect, and critical bird protections returned for the first time in nearly four years. At the same time, a crucial agency process took a key step forward that could provide stronger and improved MBTA rules to conserve declining bird populations and keep our common birds common.

Four years ago, on December 22, 2017, the Interior Department issued a legal opinion that instantly gutted the law and eliminated longstanding protections for birds. That MBTA policy, and the January 2021 regulation that doubled down on it, gave a free pass for bird deaths caused by industrial activities – often referred to as “incidental take”. It meant that companies no longer needed to take reasonable actions that minimize bird deaths, such as covering up oil pits or marking power lines to avoid collisions. Over the past four years, harm to birds from oil spills and other hazards went uninvestigated and without accountability.

Audubon and our partners fought the rollback of these longstanding protections every step of the way, including by going to court. We won a major victory last year when a federal court found the 2017 MBTA attack to be illegal. We worked with members and partners to highlight the widespread public opposition, including from more than 400,000 letters, and from hundreds of Audubon chapters and other organizations. State wildlife agencies, tribal governments, and our migratory bird treaty partner, Canada, expressed deep concerns. Earlier this year, the Biden administration began to reconsider the January 2021 rule, leading to an announcement of its repeal in September, which has now gone into effect.

That announcement also kicked off a critical new agency process to consider how to strengthen and improve the MBTA's rules going forward, beginning with a Fish and Wildlife Service public comment period that concluded on December 3, 2021. The rulemaking would codify these bird protections into the MBTA's regulations, and establish an authorization program, such as a permitting system, that could help advance practices that reduce harm to birds from industrial activities.

While important progress has been made in protecting and conserving birds since the MBTA's passage, bird populations continue to be at risk from growing and changing threats. Today, birds face a wide variety of hazards across our landscapes. Every year, millions of

birds are tragically killed in avoidable ways from industrial activities that the MBTA can help address. If we are going to succeed in recovering the loss of 3 billion birds and protecting the two-thirds of bird species at risk from climate change, we need to use, and improve, all of our available tools to minimize threats to birds.

An efficient permitting system can help expand practices, technology, and resources that protect and conserve birds, and also provide greater legal certainty and clear and consistent standards to help companies abide by the rules. These assurances provide a key incentive to implement practices that minimize impacts to birds, and helps ensure actions are taken before negative impacts occur. This is the kind of proactive work that will be necessary to maintain and recover our bird populations.

Creating a successful program will require broad stakeholder engagement, and acting without delay. During the comment period, Audubon submitted a letter jointly with industry voices, including a letter with the Edison Electric Institute, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Large Public Power Council, and conservation NGOs, who wrote, “Addressing these unprecedented avian declines necessitates updated approaches that will deliver much needed conservation benefits. An authorization program under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) could provide just such an opportunity, while also providing a workable regulatory framework for industry.”

Audubon separately submitted additional recommendations with other conservation partners, including detailed suggestions in conjunction with NRDC, guidance on seabird issues, a letter with other conservation and wildlife protection organizations, and thousands of letters from Audubon members and supporters that urged moving the process forward.

Now is the right time to advance this MBTA process. It will go hand in hand with making generational investments in infrastructure, and efforts to tackle the climate and biodiversity crises. FWS has stated an intent to issue a proposed rule by next summer, and a final rule in the following year. We are encouraging the administration to meet these timelines, if not sooner, and engage in a collaborative process with stakeholders and the public to help craft this program in a workable and effective way that improves conditions for bird populations.

At the same time, it is equally important that Congress takes action by passing the Migratory Bird Protection Act to affirm the law's protections for the future. Ultimately, these efforts will help ensure that we can continue to carry out and build on this visionary bird protection law from more than a century ago, to meet the needs of birds and people during its next century.

<https://www.audubon.org/news/bird-protections-restored-and-key-process-advances-strengthen-rules>

Patuxent River Christmas Bird Count 2021

The 2021 Patuxent River Count was held on Jan 2, 2022 this year. The morning started with rain but ended quickly for the remainder of the day. Temperatures ranged between 50 and 60 degrees.

13 count parties comprised of 21 birders logged 34 hours on foot, 32 hours by car, 6 hours owling and 4 hours by boat. A total of 96 species were observed which is low for this count. 37,860 individuals were recorded which was in the mid-range. Bolstered by a flock of mixed blackbirds approaching 30,000 strong, seen by **Tyler Bell** in Wildewood.

The top bird(s) were a first ever for the count. **Scott Clark** found 13 **Brant** at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. He also found the count's only **Rusty Blackbird** and **Great Cormorant**. Two **Cackling Geese** were seen, one each by **Mike Carpenter** and **Karen Anderson** near Soller's Wharf and **Tyler Bell** in Wildewood.

Steve Ferrell had the only **Gadwall** at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum and **Robbi Ross** picked out the count's only **Merlin** there as well. **Steve** also had a **Great Egret** at JPPM at the same time **Bob Boxwell** saw one at Cove Point. This is only the second record for Great Egret in count history. The other record was 2014. **Jim Swift** was able to uncover a **Short-eared Owl** on the airstrip again this year, thanks Jim!

Kyle Rambo was the only one to find **Ring-necked Duck** and **American Pipit** in the Sandgates area. **Mary Hollinger**, **Maggie Silverman** and **Amanda Duprey** had **Fox Sparrow** at Lloyd Bowen as did **Scott Clark** at Pax NAS.

Tyler Bell had the only **Red-headed Woodpeckers** this year as the flooded trails at Calvert Cliffs State Park prevented Craig Jeschke from reaching the spot where they are normally found.

Thanks to Sue Hamilton's son again for leading a crew along the Bay shore in his boat. This enabled **Sue Hamilton** and **Kitty Bailey** to find the only **Black** and **Surf Scoters** on the count.

Thanks to **Jason Avery** for reporting the **Peregrine Falcon** on the Solomons Bridge during the count week.

We had count highs for **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, and **Red-winged Blackbird**. Notable misses include **Lesser Scaup**, **Canvasback**, **Horned Lark** and **American Black Duck** for the first time ever.

Follow this link to the yearly count data for your perusal:
<https://ebird.org/tripreport/28791>

I write this report with a heavy heart as this will be my last year compiling this count. Moving forward, **Gene Groshon** will be your new compiler. Please make his job as easy as you have made mine for these past 20+ years. I want to thank all of you for all you have done to make this count such a success.

Sincerely,
Andy Brown



Red-headed woodpeckers in Wildewood
Photo by Dean Newman

April 2 – Saturday – 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Maryland Osprey Nature Festival
Drum Point Club, Lusby, MD



Please join us at the Drum Point Club, where the trees and the shoreline meet. SMAS is proud to be a partner for such an amazing event along with many of our friends who care. All parking will be at Patuxent High School with courtesy shuttle transportation. Admission is \$10 per family. Owl Moon Raptor will receive the proceeds from the event, a non-profit organization that rehabilitates injured raptors. Please see the festival website for full details at

MarylandOspreyFestival.org



southernmarylandaudubon

Follow



4 posts 31 followers 2 following

SoMdAudubon

Nonprofit organization

Promoting, protecting and appreciating birds and the wildlife and habitats that support them in Southern Maryland

somdaudubon.org

We are now officially on Instagram!

Please follow us [@southernmarylandaudubon](https://www.instagram.com/southernmarylandaudubon)

You might see other similar account names, but our official Instagram account is [@southernmarylandaudubon](https://www.instagram.com/southernmarylandaudubon).

You'll find our latest event updates, tantalizing tidbits of bird lore, how-tos on attracting more birds to your yard and updates on how you can pitch in to help protect birds and their habitat in Southern Maryland and elsewhere. And of course, there will always be awesome bird photos!

Welcome, New Members!

Rita Atkins-Jenkins, Clinton
Mary Ballard, Huntingtown
Julianne Brandenburg, Waldorf
Des'ree Brown, Huntingtown
Ernest Burch, Avenue
Dina Davis, Lusby
Barbara Hoagland, Mechanicsville

Peter Hughes, Lusby
Helen Lewis, Temple Hills
Betty O'Connor, Broomes Island
Robert Ramos, Waldorf
Lindsay Sargeant, Oxon Hill
Gladys Sewell, Prince Frederick
Karen Thomas, Indian Head

The Steller's Sea-Eagle Saga Continues

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

There has been an unprecedented rare bird story unfolding through the fall and winter, starring the largest bird of prey in the world – a Steller's Sea-Eagle. This impressive raptor would normally be found in far eastern Russia, northern Japan, or the Korean Peninsula during winter, but this individual is now being observed regularly on the coast of Maine! If you monitor our weekly Rare Birds article, your attention has been drawn to this impressive adult eagle as birders documented its movements eastward to establish First Provincial Records in Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, before flying south for birders to establish First State Records in Maine and Massachusetts.

Thanks to birders' reports provided to eBird and the Birding News webpage of the American Birding Association, the story of this pioneering mega-eagle continues – sometimes day by day. Saturday, for example, the eagle was reported by birders in southeast Maine, at New Harbor, Bristol, and Pemaquid, all in Lincoln County.

Its entry into the continental United States in December has attracted renewed attention and an excellent presentation of its journeys in an online Audubon article (link provided below). When asked to guess the future of this Steller's Sea-Eagle, Marshall Iliff, the eBird project leader at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and one of the first birders to spot the eagle in Massachusetts, said he could easily see it wandering North America for months, maybe years. "I predict that we're going to have a lot more fun with this bird," he mused.

Perhaps the biggest question for birders is where this wandering giant eagle will go next. The only thing that's certain is that wherever it's found, it will leave a group of stunned and elated birders in its wake. To view the maps and local accounts of the Steller's Sea-Eagle sightings to date, be sure to check out [Inside the Amazing Cross-Continent Saga of the Steller's Sea-Eagle](#) | Audubon

And to keep up to date with the latest sightings of this and other rare birds day to day, refer to the [Birding News webpage of the American Birding Association](#) at Birding News brought to you by American Birding Association - (aba.org) Then, in the first box, titled "List type," choose "Regional RBA" in the scroll bar; then select the top message named "ABA Rarities." Finally, check to see if the Steller's Sea-Eagle is listed, and if so, scroll down through the many eBird accounts to find the most recent Steller's Sea-Eagle reports. **[Editor's Note: last seen on January 24.]**

Check back to this webpage often to follow the exploits of this new celebrity among North American birders; and be assured that *The Birding Wire* will continue to provide relevant updates in our weekly Rare Birds article when the giant Steller's Sea-Eagle is reported by lucky birders. What state or province will it visit next?

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<https://www.birdingwire.com/releases/b042292d-df2a-44b9-8b21-451d7e580123>

Share your birding experiences and photos at editorstbw2@gmail.com

To subscribe, click on this link: <https://subscription.theoutdoorwire.com/subscribe?brand=birding>



While observations of the wayward adult Steller's Sea-Eagle have been exciting to monitor during fall and winter, the excitement continues into 2022. Where will birders find the Steller's next?

Photo: Christoph Moning, Macaulay Library, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Why Photographers Should Reconsider Using Playback in the Field

Playing audio clips of songs and calls is a common tool for getting better shots, but it can also be detrimental to birds and their chicks.

By Kelley Luikey
Contributor, Audubon Magazine

January 25, 2022

For the majority of us bird photographers, our passion is fueled as much by our desire to create beautiful images as it is by our love for birds. We go to great lengths to get our captures: We wake up before dawn, camouflage ourselves, sit awkwardly for hours, invest in expensive equipment, and, increasingly, rely on technology to assist us.



Barred Owl. Photo: Kelley Luikey

Among the tools that many photographers use are apps that feature recordings of bird songs and calls (called playback when used in the field). Playback works by using audio snippets to coax a bird closer into view. Sometimes we might use the bird's own call to mimic a competitor, and other times we may use that of a predator to spook the bird. Photographers often rely on these tricks to get an unobstructed shot, capture an image of a shy or elusive species, or document interesting behaviors. But as handy as using playback can be, it's also becoming clear that it could have a negative impact on the very birds we aim to celebrate.

Because of this, beginning this year, the Audubon Photography Awards will exclude any photos or videos of a bird taken with the aid of playback. Research on the impact playback may have on birds is ongoing, but as new findings emerge, it is clear that the practice can be disruptive and even detrimental to certain species. By taking this stance, Audubon hopes to raise awareness about the issue and also discourage playback as a regularly used tool in the field.

This new policy signals an important shift in the world of photography and one that should give all of us photographers pause. Trying to get that perfect shot often leads to behaviors that can harm the very subjects that we love, so we should all take time to educate ourselves on the legality and evolving ethics around playback. Let's look at some of the clear situations when you should refrain from using it in the field.

When and Where Playback Should be Avoided

Where It Is Illegal: In many areas, such as national parks and national wildlife refuges, the use of recordings is illegal. Other preserves may have vague language or seasonal changes in their policies, so it is up to the photographer to confirm whether playback is permitted. This often means stopping by the front office or desk to ask. If the area is unmanaged and there is no specific rule against using playback—which is the case in many locations people bird—you should consider the potential impacts listed below.

When It Harms Nesting Birds and Nestlings: Refraining from using playback during nesting season is imperative. There is mounting research that using calls of predators (such as a hawk or an owl) or a competitor (a same-species call that triggers a territorial response) during breeding season is harmful. The birds may be drawn away from their nests to confront the predator or the perceived challenger. This can distract the birds from other important parental duties, cause them to burn vital energy reserves, and leave eggs or chicks vulnerable to predators waiting nearby for just such an opportunity. One recent study found that repeated use of playback resulted in House Wren chicks weighing significantly less due to playback-induced fear.

Continued on page 7. See **Playback**

Playback Continued

When It Poses Danger to At-Risk Species: There are increasing numbers of bird species threatened or endangered in our world. Using predator or competitor playback in the presence of these species should never be done. Additionally, playback should not be used to call in any rare vagrants that might be in the area. Similar to nesting birds, by flushing these already stressed species into the open, you are making them more vulnerable and interrupting their rest or foraging for food.

Where Others Might Use Playback: Using playback in frequently birded areas or in photo-workshop settings only magnifies the problems outlined above. Imagine a bird that is repeatedly called in throughout a day, every day, for weeks on end. Think about the energy demands that puts on the bird, and the interruption to its daily rhythms and important life processes like feeding or tending to family.

When It Can Impede Research: In bird research areas, playback is often used by scientists for banding birds or retrieving geolocators to download tracking data. The use of playback by others in these areas can make their jobs much more difficult. “Certain species will hear so much playback, they won’t respond well when researchers attempt to capture them,” says Jennifer Tyrell, a Master Bird Bander with Audubon South Carolina. It can be tough to know if an area is being used for research, but if you are visiting a managed park or sanctuary, you can at least check at the front office for any signs or to ask a staffer.

These are just a handful of the reasons why photographers should reconsider their use of playback in the field. Some photographers will argue that the use of bird calls is much less harmful than many other human activities or that there are correct or ethical ways to use it for photography purposes. It’s true that, when used judiciously, it presents a very small problem in comparison to the environmental devastation and climate changes that birds now face. But even though most photographers are likely using bird recordings sparingly, with birds already facing so many natural and human-induced stresses, it might be time to reconsider our use of playback at all when photographing our wild subjects.

This doesn’t mean all those audio apps on your phone are now worthless, though. Instead of deleting them, consider reframing how you use them. They can still be great aids to help you connect with birds and deepen your understanding of individual species. Using bird recordings to learn songs and calls can be an invaluable asset when you are in the field; it can help you quickly locate target birds while you are walking or driving along. I also find that it improves my patience if I know what birds I am hearing around me. It even helps me pinpoint areas where I want to shoot based on what species I am hearing.

Curbing or fully stopping your use of playback might take an adjustment, but you can take pride in the fact that you have done your best to not disrupt the bird’s natural behaviors. To me, this is one of the greatest skills that any bird photographer can develop, and it leaves me with deep satisfaction. Our avian subjects bring us immense joy, enrich our lives, and help us connect with the natural world. In this spirit, most of us hope that by sharing our images our audiences will come to appreciate the birds as much as we do. And that means also making sure we are capturing them and their behaviors as authentically and conscientiously as possible.

Kelley Luikey is a South Carolina-based photographer who focuses on resident and migrating birds. She is an advocate for ethical photography.

<https://www.audubon.org/news/why-photographers-should-reconsider-using-playback-field>

February 2022—March 2022 Events

COVID POLICY: SMAS is restarting its program of in-person events January 2022 using the following public health guidelines to ensure the safety of all participants. Required of all events: 1. All participants need to be fully vaccinated, except those with medical exemptions. 2. Masks are optional for outdoor events, but may be required for in-person lecture programs, depending on the status of infection rates. 3. Do not attend if you are experiencing any symptoms of a cold, flu or COVID; 4. Maintain social distancing.

February 18 – 21 is the GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT!



Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. For information about the GBBC see their website at birdcount.org. You can help out by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes! Local GBBC get togethers throughout southern Maryland will be advertised on our Facebook page.

February 20 – SUNDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Field Trip – Great Backyard Bird Count

Piscataway Park & Hard Bargain Farm, Prince George's County

2301 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607

“WINTER WATERFOWL AND RESIDENT BIRDS”

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler and Bill Townsend

The varied habitat of water, woods, farm fields and edges provide for a great variety of birds. See fergusonfoundation.org for directions. Bill Townsend, HBF Educator Associate, will meet you at the entrance (red Chevy). No fee. Limit of 12 participants. RSVP to Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or text 301-751-8097.

February 26 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Field Trip – One of our Best! Don't miss out, this trip fills up quickly!

Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary's County

21866 Cedar Point, Bldg. 2189, NAS Patuxent River, MD 20670. Gate #2, pass office parking lot.

“WINTER BIRDS AND TUNDRA SPECIALISTS AT PAX RIVER AIRFIELD”

Leader: Dean Newman

We are fortunate to have access to sections of the navy base fronting on the confluence of the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay, which hosts airfields that provide tundra-like habitat. Previous trips have turned up winter birds such as Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspurs, Short-eared Owls, Horned Larks, Savannah Sparrows, Wilson's Snipe and Peregrine Falcon. Preregistration is required and open to U.S. citizens only. Must bring photo I.D. and Covid vaccination and masks are required. We will be escorted and traveling together in a van; participant size is limited. RSVP to Dean Newman at deannewman03@gmail.com

March 2 – WEDNESDAY – 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Monthly Meeting Program - Virtual Zoom Meeting

“What’s Up with Maryland Plants?”

CHRIS FRYE, State Botanist, MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service

Chris Frye has served as the State's chief botanist for 26 years. He leads conservation efforts for plants, maintains the State's list of rare, threatened and endangered plant species, and serves as the curator of vascular plants at the TAWES herbarium in Annapolis. Chris will discuss some highlights of his research, detail some activities for management and recovery of rare plants, S3 plant species to look for, and talk generally about the challenges to conservation posed by small population size and isolation.

March 12 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Field Trip

Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert County

“WINTER WATERFOWL TRIP”

Leader: Tyler Bell

Open fields and wooded areas provide good land birding and the river frontage close views of waterfowl including Horned Grebe, Long-tailed Duck, lots of Ruddy Ducks, both scaup, Common Goldeneye, lots of others! Call or email Tyler for directions to the meeting spot. Maximum of 6 participants; SMAS Covid rules apply. RSVP to Tyler Bell at jtylerbell@yahoo.com or 301-862-4623.

March 20 – SATURDAY – 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Field Trip – Youth Welcome!

Port Tobacco River Park

7685 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

“BALD EAGLES AND WINTER BIRDS”

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler and Brenda Nairn-Davies

Join us to celebrate our local Bald Eagles Chandler and Hope and learn *egg*citing facts about our rapturous birds. This event will begin at the park pavilion with a 30-minute talk, observation of the Bald Eagles nest, followed by a 60-to-90-minute walk around the trails looking for winter birds and waterfowl on the river. RSVP to Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or text 301-851-8097.

March 26 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Field Trip – S MD Audubon Youth Birders – Youth Welcome to Join!

Newtowne Neck State Park, St. Mary’s County

21110 Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650

“EARLY SPRING BIRDS AT THE NECK”

Leader(s): Ben Springer

Join us for our first field trip scheduled specifically for the S MD Audubon Youth Birders Club. This birding field trip is targeting all youth interested in joining the bird club, or simply to get together with other kids that love birds and want to learn and enjoy birds more. Come on out! Defined by Breton Bay, the Potomac River and St. Clements Bay, Newtowne Neck is a 776-acre property of woodlands, wetlands and agricultural fields which offers a wide variety of birding habitats. It 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. From Rte. 5 north of Leonardtown turn 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. NOTE: This event will include two adults for supervision of youth. All youth under the age of 12 must include an adult. RSVP to Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or text 301-751-8097.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ Please enroll me as a member of the **Southern Maryland Audubon Society**. All of my membership dollars will help support local conservation initiatives and enable us to provide southern Maryland teacher education scholarships to attend Hog Island, Audubon Camp in Maine.

☐ Individual/Family: __1 year \$20 __2 year \$35 __3 year \$45

☐ Lifetime Membership: __\$500

☐ Donation: _____

☐ Please enroll me as a first time member of the **National Audubon Society**. You will automatically become a member of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society. You will receive six issues of National's award winning Audubon Magazine. A fraction of your dues will be received by 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

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 join SMAS via **PayPal**.
Go to our website at somdaudubon.org for this new option.



Osprey

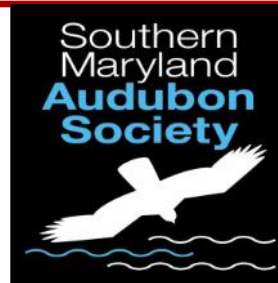
Photo by Bill Hubick

Editor: Tyler Bell Email: 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.

2021–2022 Officers

President, Tiffany Farrell - somdaudubon.president@gmail.com
Vice President, Elena Gilroy—elenabode@yahoo.com
Treasurer, Julie Daniel—juliemdaniel@hotmail.com
Secretary, Barbara Hill —tytito@verizon.net



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: _____

City: _____

State, Zip Code: _____

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