

The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY



Eastern Screech-Owl
Photo by Steve Arthur

IN THIS ISSUE

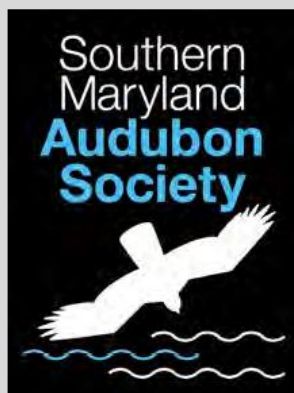
SMAS Field Trips Are Great!

**Winter Birds and Tundra
Specialties Field Trip**

**Hummingbirds Exert Fine
Control Over Body Heat**

Upcoming Events

**La Plata Supports Use of Native
Plants!**



<http://somdaudubon.org/>

President's Perch

As I grow as a birder, I think of my outings as nature's own podcast. What are your favorite songs and calls? Mine are often those I have just heard. Some in my late winter yard have been especially poignant—the “peent” of courting Timberdoodles and the high-pitched warnings of Cedar Waxwings feasting on holly berries. I used to study eBird reports and travel for such experiences, unaware that they occur right under my nose. This discovery has been a blessing of Covid times. Even now, in early March, everywhere are signs of spring: daffodils in bloom, budding maple trees, and—oh, be still my heart—the return of the dawn chorus. Every day I listen for which new species are joining in. Recently I heard my first-of-year Pine Warbler and Eastern Phoebe.

What a fantastic time of year for SMAS activities to resume. Our winter field trips (see two reports inside) were tantalizing previews of the promise of spring and reminders of the joys of birding with others. What spring migrants are you targeting? We have a full season of field trips and other events on tap, with a listing inside and online. This spring our partner organizations have planned festivals galore, more than we can staff. One big event for SMAS is the Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival on April 2. Learn more at their website (<https://marylandospreyfestival.org>), and please join us at Drum Point for great family fun! We will also have a table at the free, family-centered Celebrate La Plata event on April 30, from noon to 4 pm at the Town Hall.

We haven't forgotten the adults, either. From May 20 through 22, the statewide birding group—Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS)—will hold its annual convention in person at Solomons Island. SMAS is helping coordinate a great lineup of field trips in our region. Check out their website at <https://www.mosconvention.org/> for more details.

If you still prefer to bird solo, please help us with May Count (see inside) or our on-going Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas. There are still many atlas blocks needing records of even our most familiar breeding birds. It's easy, fun, and relieves stress! Go to <https://ebird.org/atlasmdc/about> to learn more.

In closing, friends, I hope your spring birding is delightful, whether you join us in the field or savor the visitors in your own backyard.

For the birds!
Tiffany Farrell
President
Southern Maryland Audubon Society

Southern Maryland Audubon Society

WANTED! WEBSITE MANAGER



We are looking for a volunteer to help with our website. Familiarity with WordPress required. Please email Tiffany Farrell, President, with questions at SoMdAudubon.president@gmail.com

May 14 or 15 – SATURDAY OR SUNDAY– All Day
COUNTY MAY COUNTS

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

Note: Exact dates for each county will be posted on our website or upcoming Osprey newsletters. Counties may choose Saturday OR Sunday. Help is always appreciated from all: backyard birders, beginners, new members. This is a great way to learn! Data and information help save our birds. The county coordinators for you to contact are as follows:

CALVERT: Sherman Suter (401-586-1073), sjsuter29@verizon.net
CHARLES: Lynne Wheeler (301-751-8097), somdaudubon@yahoo.com
PRINCE GEORGE'S: Matthew Felperin, (703-268-6064), mfelperin@nvrpa.org
ST. MARY'S: Tyler Bell (301-862-4623), itylerbell@yahoo.com

SMAS Field Trips Are Great!

by Lynne Wheeler

It is wonderful to be back outdoors and hosting field trips and to be able to enjoy our birds with others! On Sunday, February 20, we were back to doing what we love, and a great way to do so was at one of our favorite places in Prince George's County, Hard Bargain Farm and Piscataway Park. Thank you to Bill Townsend for hosting SMAS to bird the farm and co-lead this trip!

The farm is the environmental education unit of the Alice Ferguson Foundation, and is a 330-acre working farmstead with rolling hills, cropland, woodlands, and wetlands, located along the banks of the Potomac River in Accokeek, Maryland. From the farm's hilltop, visitors are treated to a commanding view of the Nation's Capital, Virginia shoreline, Potomac River and Mount Vernon. The Foundation donated land that led to the creation of Piscataway Park, owned and managed by the National Park Service.

This multi-habitat is always a joy for birding. Our walk began at 9 a.m. at the farm with cold weather, but luckily a lack of wind and plenty of sunshine. Our party of ten, bundled up with coats, hats, gloves, binoculars and cameras witnessed "good birds" as we say, almost immediately. Hard Bargain Farm created a boardwalk across from the farm entrance that traverses the Accokeek Creek. The boardwalk gave us wonderful views of Bald Eagles, perched and soaring, two Belted Kingfishers flying, two Red-headed Woodpeckers working the snags, multiple Eastern Bluebirds, various sparrow species, great views of a Gray Catbird, and the friendliest Golden-crowned Kinglet I have ever seen! The kinglet got very up close and personal with our group, which included some beginner birders, they were so charmed by its golden crown.

Our walk continued across Bryan Point Road to the Piscataway Park boardwalk, which traverses the marshland along the Potomac River, and offers spectacular views of the Virginia shoreline, including George Washington's Mount Vernon estate. This is such a magical location! You cannot help but feel a special enchantment of history and nature melding together. The birds continued to entertain us, a Great Blue Heron taking flight just in front of us, Common Mergansers and American Black Ducks flying around the creek, Canada Geese sunning on the river, along with Lesser Scaup, and a sizable flock of Mallards – the sun shining on the drakes' iconic iridescent green heads was a gem of nature to see.

Bald Eagles and vultures continued to enjoy the thermals up above. We watched two eagle nests to see if an adult might be sitting on eggs, but if she/he was we did not get to see. It is hunkering down time for our eagles as eggs are just being laid. Our walk continued off of the boardwalk to the fields along the river, hoping to see meadowlarks, a usual spot for them, but they eluded us. The day ended with all of the usuals you would expect, capped off nicely with a Brown Thrasher and Hermit Thrush.

Our eBird checklist ended up with 39 species for our 2 hour and 30-minute walk – and – it was a GREAT day. Not only was our group basking in joy at being able to be birding together, we were also happy to be participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was the first online community-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real time. This year marked 25 years of the GBBC community coming together to watch, learn about, count, and celebrate birds. It was a GREAT way to end our day.



Photo by Steve Arthur

Winter Birds and Tundra Specialties Field Trip Report

by Dean Newman

Saturday morning, February 26, was heavily overcast, temperatures in the high thirties with a strong wind driving the chill deep into our bones. The only thing missing from any field-trip leaders hell day was rain and that looked imminent. Nevertheless, eleven brave souls mustered in the flat light of the Naval Air Station parking lot, only reluctantly leaving the comfort and warmth of their automobiles, donning face masks and crowding tightly into the sardine-can environment otherwise known as a government van. Our conveyance was commanded by Jim Swift, the air station's "Kyle Rambo replacement", and was the only access to the runways where the fabled "...Tundra Specialties" resided.

Unfortunately, the tundra specialties didn't get the memo. At first the group, marveled at repetitive sightings of Savannah Sparrows and, to relieve the choking, cloying feeling of impending failure experienced by the leader, Dean Newman, expressed great joy at each sighting. This had to be one of the nicest, most gracious and genteel groups of birders ever assembled.

One member of the group, a young "whippersnapper" called the "...yellow lores..." of the sparrows perched at least fifty yards out. The rest of us, being past a certain age, felt privileged to see the runway much less the infinitesimally small patch of feathers on a bird a third the size of the irritating masks that were making viewing difficult. In addition to being a hotshot birder with eyes and ears sharper than military secrets, this young man turned out to be the perfect replacement for the missing sunlight outside the vehicle. He was the perfect glue that transformed the group into a team.

Before the newness of the sparrows could wane, Jim Swift, only marginally less gifted than the "whippersnapper", called, "Horned Larks." Thereafter, a dozen or so in as many sightings, kept us entertained until a pair, male and female, of Northern Harriers, chased each other across the grass. Some of the group had never seen the "Gray Ghost" gender of the species and, although uncertain if this was preliminary courtship, frolicked back and forth across our view for quite a while.

Again, the ever-vigilant Jim, ambidextrously driving the van, avoiding soft mud, potholes and Jersey barriers, spotted a Wilson's Snipe close by the van. Search as we might, none of us saw it until it flushed. The group's "expert" leader, myself, bravely called it a woodcock. Jim, ever so tactful, patiently explained the different flight views of both and graciously added, "It's easy to get them confused." Keep in mind, the view was totally unobstructed, across concrete interspersed with grass less than four inches high. Any novice birder could have called that bird correctly.

The moment was once again broken by the "whippersnapper" who called "Eastern Meadowlarks!" Their camouflage in the sparse, short grass was amazing until one turned its bright yellow chest full on us. Given the vivid color, it's obvious Spring is just around the corner. Just by turning its back, the bird would literally disappear only to reappear with the next twist of its body. The interest generated by the Houdini act of the meadowlark gave testament both to the straws to which we were clutching in the dismal weather and the when-life-gives-you-lemons-make-lemonade spirit of our group. Have I said they were wonderful?

Alas, the Short-eared Owl didn't show and after one more pass through the grassy midfield of the runways, we transitioned from the "Tundra Specialties" to the "Winter Birds" portion of the trip. Leaving the runways, we drove the base shoreline and, among the expected Buffleheads, Greater Scaup and Long-tailed Ducks, experienced the best look at a Black Scoter most of us had ever had. Usually these birds stay several hundred yards offshore but this one, hanging with a raft of Scaup, was within fifty yards. That's practically arm's length given their normal spookiness.

Probably the highlight of the trip was a Bald Eagle, very close, grabbing a fish in perfect light right in front of us. We could see it coming from the far horizon, had our bins tracking it and gasped as it lowered its talons, flared its wide, white tail, and gently descended and snatched the prey. Of course, several other eagles made appearances that day but none were as appreciated as this one.

Winding up the trip, we stopped at the Goose Creek Campground and saw approximately twenty Tundra Swans while behind us, out in the Patuxent River, floated Common Goldeneyes and a raft of Surf Scoters. Back at the parking lot as we were leaving the van, one member declared we had seen forty-four species. Another corrected her by saying, "I only had thirty-two". That second person is now banned from future NAS Patuxent River Field Trips.

In all seriousness, it was a challenging day but you never would have guessed it from the enthusiasm of the group. We would all like to express our sincere appreciation to Jim Swift for doing the "grunt" work of getting the van and taking us on the runways. Personally, I'd like to thank the participants for their attitude and encouragement. There was never a discouraging word uttered. In closing, all I can say is, "Let's do it again next year!"

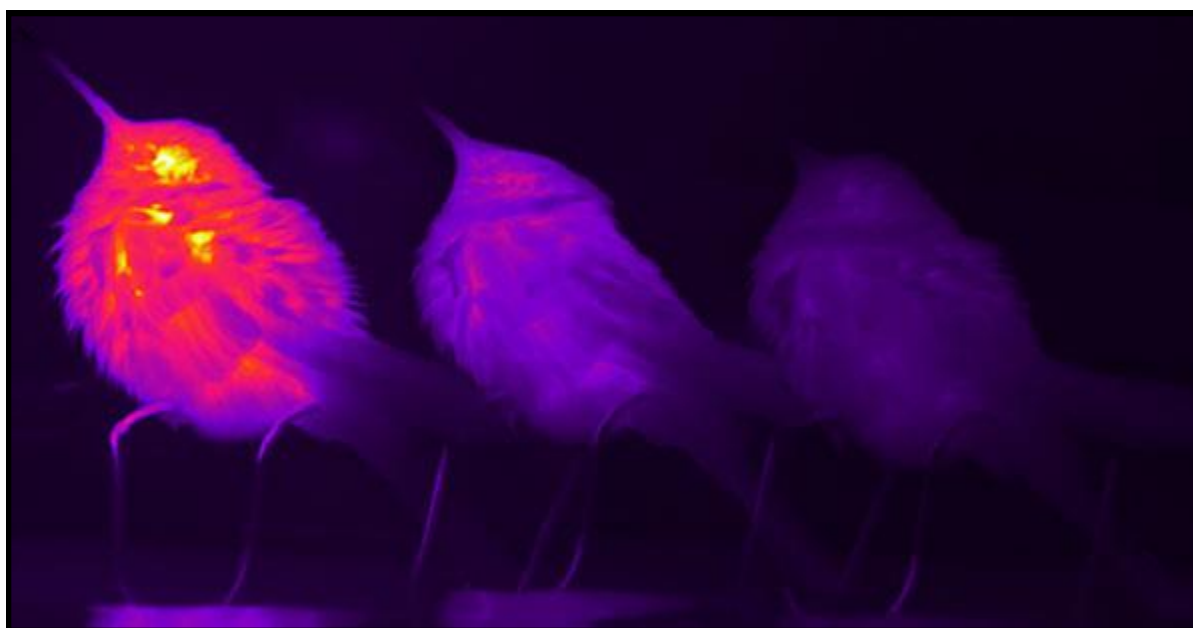
Hummingbirds Exert Fine Control Over Body Heat

Study finds state of torpor is flexible and variable

Ithaca, NY—At night, hummingbirds lower their body temperature and metabolism drastically by dropping into an energy-saving state of inactivity called torpor. Scientists from multiple universities now find there's more than one level of torpor: shallow and deep, plus the transition stage between levels of torpor and the normal sleep state. Their findings have been published in the [Journal of Experimental Biology](#).

“There have been a few hints that this ability to fine-tune thermoregulation was possible,” said lead author Anusha Shankar, currently a Rose Postdoctoral Fellow at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. “But the studies were done under laboratory conditions, not the conditions a bird would encounter in the wild. It was really exciting to see that hummingbird torpor could be variable and flexible.”

Shankar and colleagues from Stony Brook University, the Swiss Federal Research Institute, and George Fox University, used infra-red thermal imaging to track the body temperatures of three hummingbird species in Arizona: Blue-throated Mountain-gem, Rivoli's Hummingbird, and Black-chinned Hummingbird. They measured the temperature emitted from the skin around the eyes of the birds. The differences in heat generation at various stages are stark.



L-R: Composite infra-red images of a Blue-throated Mountain-gem in normal sleep state, transitioning to torpor, then in torpor. Images courtesy of Anusha Shankar, Isabelle Cisneros, Sarah Thompson, and Don Powers.

The normal daytime body temperature of a hummingbird is more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, even in colder weather. During shallow torpor, their body temperature drops by about 20 degrees Fahrenheit. In deep torpor, the bird maintains a body temperature 50 degrees Fahrenheit below its normal daytime temperature. If human body temperature were to drop a mere 3 degrees from the standard 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit, we'd be in a state of hypothermia and, unlike hummingbirds, would need outside help to get warm again. Size also matters.

“In this study we found that the smallest bird used deep torpor every night,” said Shankar. “The bigger birds sometimes use deep torpor and sometimes shallow torpor, and sometimes no torpor at all!”

Continued on page 6. See **Torpor**

Torpor Continued

Shallow torpor may have developed to balance energy-saving with the costs of deep torpor. In deep torpor a hummingbird is probably more vulnerable to disease because its immune system shuts down, plus it is vulnerable to predation and sleep deprivation. This ability to use torpor at varying depths indicates that at least some birds are capable of fine-tuning how cold they get in torpor, and how they manage saving energy with the potential costs of dropping way down into deep torpor.



The infrared camera on the left is pointed at a hummingbird in a chamber placed outside on the right. The birds were therefore experiencing natural light patterns and temperatures. Photo by Antonella Wilby.

Torpor is not the same as sleep. Sleep uses much more energy and serves many restorative functions. Daily torpor also differs from hibernation. Hibernating animals enter a low-energy state for weeks or months at a time while hummingbirds can enter torpor every night.

Many questions remain about what is taking place in the brain during torpor, how levels of body fat may trigger torpor, and how the hummingbirds can generate the heat to warm up again—a process that can take up to 30 minutes.

“At least 42 bird species use torpor,” said Shankar, “But only hummingbirds, nightjars, and one species of mousebird go into deep torpor. Studying the range of torpor could help us understand the evolution of thermoregulation in birds.”

Support for this research comes from NASA, the Tinker Foundation, National Geographic Society, American Philosophical Society, European Research Council, the Swiss Federal Research Institute for Forest, Snow, and Landscape Research, George Fox University, the Swiss National Science Foundation, and two crowd-funded grants from experiment.com.

Reference:

Anusha Shankar, Isabelle N.H., Sarah Thompson, Catherine H. Graham and Donald R. Powers. [A heterothermic spectrum in hummingbirds](#). (2022) Journal of Experimental Biology. 225: 2. DOI: 10.1242/jeb.243208

Media Contact:

Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, pel27@cornell.edu

<https://mailchi.mp/cornell/hummingbird-torpor?e=f0b505020c>

March 2022—May 2022 Events

March 19 – 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 *eggciting* 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 that 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.

April 2 – Saturday – 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Maryland Osprey Nature Festival

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 nonprofit organization that rehabilitates injured raptors. Please see the festival website for full details at



MarylandOspreyFestival.org

March 2022—May 2022 Events continued

April 6 – WEDNESDAY – 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Monthly Program Meeting – In Person

King's Landing Park, Calvert County

3255 Kings Landing Road, Huntingtown, MD 20639

"The Mysteries and Marvels of Bird Migration"

CHRIS EBERLY, Executive Director, Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

Chris Eberly has been Executive Director of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership since 2017. He attended graduate school at the University of Georgia where he earned an M.S. in natural resources and ornithology. Following grad school, he became the first coordinator of the Department of Defense's bird conservation program (DoD Partners in Flight program), a position he held for 17 years. After serving as Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in Texas, he was excited to return to Maryland to head up the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. Chris strives to connect people to birds through Bird City Maryland, the Maryland Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Program, and the Farmland Raptor Program. No one is more qualified to share with us examples of amazing bird migrations, from raptors to shorebirds to songbirds.



April 24 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Earth Day Field Trip

Historic Sotterley, St. Mary's County

44300 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636

"WHAT'S SOARING AT SOTTERLEY"

Leader: David Moulton

Celebrate Earth Day weekend with a birdwalk at this scenic and historic Patuxent River property as the annual surge of migrating birds begins throughout St. Mary's County. Nesting Bald Eagles, migrating warblers, meadowlarks, woodpeckers and waterfowl can all be found via Sotterley's farm roads and trails. From Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through the gates to the gravel parking lot on the Sotterley historic property. 10-person maximum; SMAS Covid rules apply. RSVP at moulton.davidh@gmail.com or 240-278-4473.



**ADDITIONAL EARTH DAY EVENTS MAY BE POSTED ON THE
SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY FACEBOOK GROUP**

April 30 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

Field Trip

Smallwood State Park, Charles County

2750 Sweden Point Road, Marbury, MD 20658

"SMALLWOOD STATE PARK - RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS AND MIGRANTS"

Leader(s): Marisa Rositol and Lynne Wheeler

Smallwood State Park is a great location for Red-headed Woodpeckers and a good variety of migrating birds and warblers. Louisiana Waterthrush highly likely. Meet at 8:00 a.m. and proceed to Pavilion 1 parking area, past the campground. RSVP to Lynne at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

March 2022—May 2022 Events continued

May 1 – SUNDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Field Trip

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, Calvert County

2880 Grays Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

“CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF THE PROTHONOTARY WARBLER”

Leader: Gene Groshon

Visit this unique swampland where one of Southern Maryland's most eye-popping warblers makes its home. The Prothonotary Warbler will be in full song, setting up its breeding territories. Our leader, Gene Groshon has been banding Prothonotaries in this location for several years. Our goal will be to identify individual warblers that have just returned from Venezuela, Colombia or Mexico to the Cypress Swamp to nest again. The Sanctuary includes a visitors' center and a boardwalk through the swamp, so the birding should be excellent at the height of spring migration. DIRECTIONS: About 2 mi south of Prince Frederick, MD on Rt 4, turn south on Sixes Road (Rt 506). In 2 miles turn left on Grays Road. Proceed for about a quarter mile to Sanctuary entrance on the right. Group size may be limited. Register online at: <https://www.calvertparks.org/event-4657586>

May 4 – WEDNESDAY – 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Monthly Program Meeting – In Person at CSM La Plata!

College of Southern Maryland, La Plata Campus, ST Bldg, Charles County

8730 Mitchell Rd, La Plata, MD 20646

“Bird City MD Campus Walk and Talk – Eastern Bluebirds, Native Plants, and World Migratory Bird Day”

Barb Whipkey, Lynne Wheeler, and Tracey Stuller

A first! Join us as we get outdoors and see what helped make our college earn the designation of becoming the first Bird City Campus in Maryland. We will take a walk around campus with Barb Whipkey, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited stores in La Plata and Lexington Park. Barb is a champion for Eastern Bluebirds. As we walk the campus, we will check on the many Eastern Bluebird boxes as Barb talks about Bluebird trails, feeding Bluebirds, as well as how to provide for the migratory birds that are showing up for nesting season. During our walk we will visit the numerous native plant gardens that have been created, which helped earn our campus to be designated a Bee USA Campus! The event will finalize in the central area of the Science and Technology building with food treats for us, and as the sun sets, and lights come on, we will discuss the theme for this year's World Migratory Bird Day – light pollution and migratory birds - as well as the bird species that are being highlighted for 2022.



Photo by Barb Whipkey

Mid-May to Early June – It Depends on the Owls!

Barn Owls of Southern Maryland – Youth Welcome

Southern Charles County Farm

Watch our Osprey newsletter, SMAS Event emails, and our website for the exact date and details.

Leader: Mike Callahan

Join our Raptor Conservation Committee chair Mike to check on Barn Owl nest boxes, and hopefully band nestling owls. This trip takes place on private property in southern Charles County. The location and directions will be given when you register and reserve your spot. This event fills up rapidly. There is a small fee involved with proceeds going toward raptor conservation. RSVP at 240-765-5192 or raptorsrulemc@gmail.com



Photo by Bill Hubick



TOWN OF LA PLATA *Maryland*



Supports Use of Native Plants!

by Lynne Wheeler

Many already know that the Town of La Plata became our first Bird City MD. Did you know it is also a Tree City and that they earned the designation as a Sustainable MD certified city? Another great feather in their cap, it is a certification program for municipalities in Maryland that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term.

Many great environmental programs are structured under their Keep La Plata Beautiful committee. They include: Healthy Habitats/Bird City MD, Litter Bees, Tree Advisory Group, Arts Work Group, and Youth Environmental Stewardship. I enjoy helping them implement their passion by serving on this committee.

What's new? I am so excited to share! The Town recently posted on their website a recommended landscape planting list, their intent being to promote native landscaping throughout the Town. I spent many, many hours helping to prepare this extensive Excel spreadsheet, which includes a list of 431 native plant species, detailed information about each species, as well as 33 banned plant species (farewell Nandina, Butterfly Bush, Bradford Pear!), and plant nurseries that supply native plants. The end goal is for these landscaping guidelines to be implemented into the town code. The guidelines ask for landscape projects to include 85% native plants! How cool is that?! We consider this list to be a work in progress, and may make additions as we go along. Check it out! Go to <https://townoflaplata.org/> > type in the search box "native plants"> choose "click for details." Note: the majority of this information was compiled from the [Biota of North America Plant Atlas](#) and the [Maryland Biodiversity Project](#) websites. Go Native! Thank you Jeanine Harrington, Director of Planning, for caring about our environment and letting me work on this project!

And, we are not done! The committee recently promoted an initiative hosted by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Maryland Forest Service to train community members and volunteers as native Tree Stewards. We shook a bunch of trees, and now have 22 of us (SMAS members, UMD Master Gardeners, UMD Master Naturalists, town council members, etc.) taking their online class. Many thanks to Kelly Phipps, Legislative Services Assistant, for helping to organize this class. What is its goal? Our four one-hour online sessions will enable us Tree Stewards to work with neighbors, organizations, and public agencies to share our knowledge about proper tree species selection, potential planting sites, and proper planting and care.

Many of us native plant enthusiasts are busy now getting our seeds planted, our passion to enhance the biodiversity and environmental health of our community, as well as enjoy their beauty. These town resources can help us accomplish our goals the right way. Please learn about the proper native plant for our ecoregion. Beware of pollinator/native plant mixes that are readily available, most include species that are not true natives of our area, and can cause hybridization of our native plants. Once hybridized, not only may it not support our insect community as a host plant, but they can also alter the genetics of our true natives. We continue to research the effect of nativars (cultivated native plants), and the jury is still out. So do your homework, check out our resources, and may hope spring eternal for a healthy green environment for us all!

Welcome, New Members!

Araya Amdetsyon, Brandywine

Gayle Bowen, Port Tobacco

Robert Y Clagett, Brandywine

Brenda Elmore, Brandywine

Shirley A Guest, Fort Washington

Brenda A. Hollweger, Solomons

Susan Johnson, Callaway

Samuel Kim, Oxon Hill

Cynthia King, Bryans Road

Bethany E McDonald, Chesapeake Beach

Peter Perry, Owings

Robert Ramos, Waldorf

Judith Roa, Hollywood

Jacquelyn Robertson, Fort Washington

Katherine Slaughter, Quantico

Judy Smack, Huntingtown

John Walton, Clinton

Herbert Winnik, Solomons



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!

Follow [@southernmarylandaudubon](https://www.instagram.com/southernmarylandaudubon) and please invite all your friends to join our flock!

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

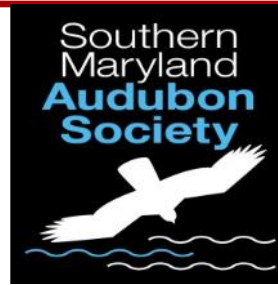
Photo by Bill Hubick

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—juliedaniel@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