

The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY



Orange-crowned Warbler
Photo by Steve Arthur

IN THIS ISSUE

Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival

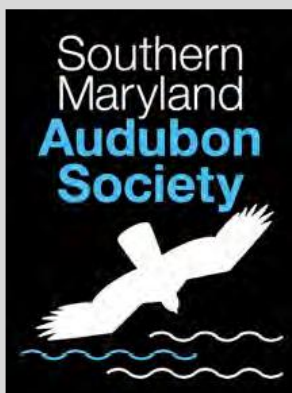
GBBC—2022 Final Results

Wisdom the Albatross

JPPM “Trip Report”

Heermann’s Gull in Baltimore

MOS Convention in Solomons



<http://somdaudubon.org/>

President’s Perch

Early this morning I discovered about 20 Yellow-rumped Warblers foraging in my pin oaks. Their sweet, descending trill and unpredictable zips among the unfurling leaves were pure magic. In the late afternoon I spied both a Carolina Chickadee and a Northern Mockingbird plucking nesting material from my planters. What spring moments have moved you lately? A migrant in bright plumage newly arrived or passing through? Witnessing breeding or nesting behavior? Or winter residents tuning up their songs and fattening up for their journey northward? All of them make spring birding the best of the year.

Although I delight in solo hikes, I have recently been reminded of the joys of in-person events, like our April lecture on migration and the Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival (see p. 2). The enthusiasm of others is energizing! And SMAS has so many fun activities planned. Please check out our events listing (pp. 7–9), which includes meeting Barn Owl chicks on April 25.

Inside you can find results of this year’s Great Backyard Bird Count (pp. 4–5), and with the May Count on the 14th there is another chance to help crowd-source bird data. Whether you are an expert or beginner, your contribution is valuable. To learn more, contact the county coordinators listed on page 9.

Finally, there is still time to sign up for the Maryland Ornithological Society’s convention from May 20 through 22 (p. 10). SMAS helped line up a great selection of field trips in our stomping grounds. Please go to their website: <https://www.mosconvention.org/> to see details and sign up.

Spring is in full swing, friends, and there is no better time to get outdoors and enjoy birds. What species do you hope to find? A new addition to your life list? A reliable favorite? I wish you success in both!

See you soon,
Tiffany Farrell
SMAS President



Yellow-rumped Warbler
Photo by Bill Hubick

Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival, 2022

by Lynne Wheeler

On Saturday April 2, collaboration was our theme! Many of us who are committed to protecting and conserving Ospreys came together to promote the inaugural Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival. It was held at the beautiful Drum Point Club overlooking the Chesapeake Bay and the mouth of the Patuxent River. The mission: education, conservation, and celebration of Ospreys and other wildlife.

This grassroots movement was initiated by photographer Sal Icaza, who banded with citizens throughout Calvert County and the State of Maryland. The Southern Maryland Audubon Society was honored to be a sponsor of and participant in this wonderful day. We had sunny weather with excellent turnout. Reaching many new and enthusiastic bird lovers, we, in the words of the mission, celebrated and educated from 11 am to 4 pm.

SMAS board member Greg Klesch led nature walks on Drum Point trails along shore, pond, and woodland, where Pine Warblers foraged at eye level and Brown-headed Nuthatches worked short snags. Many hikers saw a huge flock of Cedar Waxwings for the first time.

Back at the event field, SMAS hosted a presentation table, where we displayed information about Ospreys as well as our society. There we were surrounded by many friends of birds, as well as live ones! Mike Callahan drew huge crowds with his live raptor presentations, which included a Barn Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, and a Bald Eagle, among others. There were a dozen other exhibitors, such as Raptor's Eye, the Maryland Ornithological Society, the Calvert Nature Society, the National Park Service, Saving Southern Maryland's Grassland Birds (David Moulton), the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (Chris Eberly), and Jug Bay's Osprey expert, Greg Kearns.

Organizers donated the festival proceeds to the highly respected Owl Moon Raptor Center, which rescues, rehabilitates and releases birds back into the wild. At their tables, Owl Moon and Raptor's Eye also presented live birds of prey including Eastern Screech-owls, Merlin, and American Kestrel. What a fantastic day to see charismatic birds up close!

We cross our talons and hope this is the first of many such festivals. What could be better? Feathered friends, food, and a beautiful water view ... sounds like southern Maryland!



Board members Lynne Wheeler, Tiffany Farrell (left to right), and Julie Daniel (unpictured) crewed the SMAS table at the Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival, April 2, 2022.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Attention members, in accordance with the SMAS By-Laws, a nominating committee has been formed for the upcoming elections, which will be held June 5 at the annual picnic. This is a notice to all members. If you would like to submit a nomination for a position of Officer or Director on our board, please submit your nomination via email to our nominating committee chair Lynne Wheeler: comstockel@aol.com

The Southern Maryland Audubon Society board of directors will present for vote to general membership amendments/changes to our existing Constitution and By-Laws. The amendments will be posted on our website 15 days prior to the June 5 annual picnic at Kings Landing Park, Calvert County. All amendments will update our 1971 draft. In particular, they will modernize and reflect how business is currently conducted and add gender-neutral language. Note: due to poor mail delivery we are notifying members by Osprey newsletter and on our website. This method of notification is one of the amendments added to our new by-laws.

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

Great Backyard Bird Count—2022 Final Results

Birds Bring Us Together

Each year we stand in awe of how the world turns out to share their enjoyment of birds. People from 192 countries report approximately 3/4 of the world's known species—this is remarkable. Our thanks extend to each and every bird enthusiast around the world who shared Merlin Bird ID(s), eBird checklist(s), or photos, sounds, or videos from February 18-21, 2022. Enjoy this summary from the four-day event.

In a snapshot:

7,099 species of birds identified

192 participating countries

359,479 eBird checklists

298,208 Merlin Bird IDs

141,990 photos added to Macaulay Library

384,641 estimated global participants

Numbers may change slightly as final checklists are added and validated by our reviewers. Data reflect totals through March 10, 2022.

Participation Is Strong

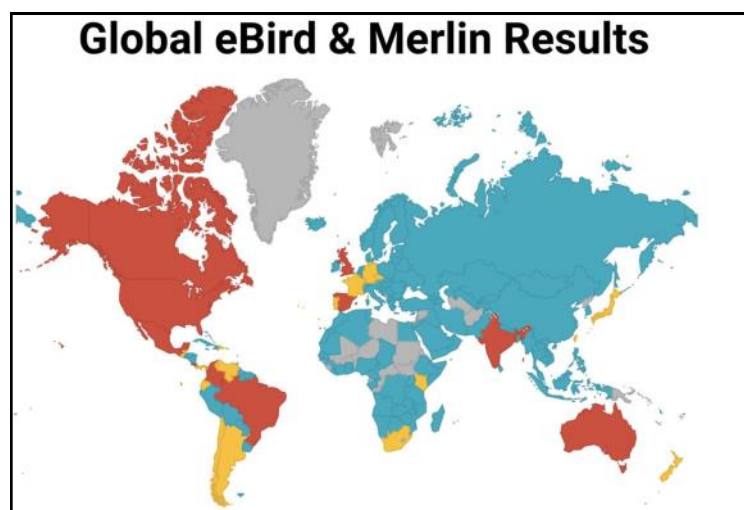
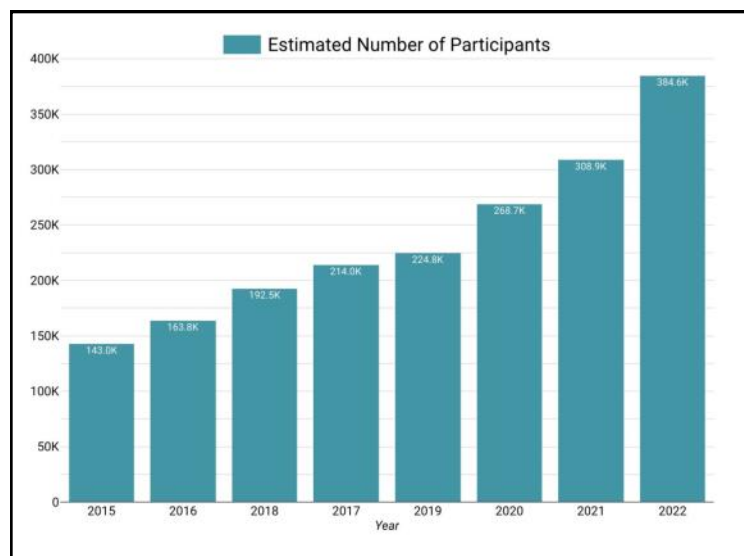
During GBBC 2021 various countries experienced different levels of lockdown due to the global pandemic. This resulted in more people turning towards birds and birdwatching for relaxation and enjoyment. We were uncertain what participation would look like in 2022 as lockdown restrictions were lifted in many places. We were pleasantly surprised. While the number of eBird checklists and Merlin Bird IDs were down from 2021, participation increased. This is likely due to people returning to birding in large groups. Or, perhaps, people who enjoyed their experience last year encouraged more of their family, friends, and community to get involved.

Global Growth in Regions

With Covid restrictions easing in many places we saw participation from more countries, but we recorded a decline in the total number of checklists submitted in regions with the most participation, such as the United States and Canada. That said, India reported a record numbers of checklists: 42,830. That's a 28% increase from 2021! Well-deserved recognition goes to Panchayat Union Middle School, in Tamil Nadu, India where middle school students submitted 4,316 eBird checklists and reported 90 species. What an incredible community accomplishment!

There was also an increase in participation from Brazil, with 1,921 checklists, likely due to our developing collaboration with SaveBrasil. Several other countries also had an increase in the number of checklists such as Mexico, Australia, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Spain, Ecuador, Ireland, and many more! Click around on the global map to see how numbers have changed over the years.

Continued on page 5. See **GBBC**



People submitted data from 192 countries. Orange countries were where people submitted the most data followed by the yellow and blue countries. Grey countries were where no people submitted data. To see participation by country, [click here](#).

GBBC Continued

Top Three Countries by the Numbers

The United States had the highest number of checklists with an impressive 234,131. California had the most checklists with 20,191. New York, Texas, and Florida were not too far behind with respectable numbers of checklists in the 13,000 -14,000 range. California and Texas also dominated the numbers of species reported in their warmer climates with 380 and 371 species sighted, respectively.

India had an impressive year, landing them in the second spot for total number of eBird submissions: 42,830. The state of West Bengal had the most species reported at 486, while the state of Tamil Nadu had the most checklists, 10,735. The most impressive growth was seen in Rajasthan and Gujarat where the number of checklists grew by 600% and 300%, respectively! Kerala, Karnataka, and Maharashtra also saw increases in the number of checklists. Overall, India delivered incredible numbers this year.

Canada had the third highest number of checklists with 33,797. eBird and Merlin submissions together in Canada equaled more than 57,000 submissions. The province of Ontario delivered an impressive 15,177 checklists with British Columbia a respectable 5,981 checklists. British Columbia had the most species reported at 200, but not too far behind were Ontario (154) and Nova Scotia (133). Quebec had a special rare sighting of a Brambling, which is native to Scandinavia and Russia.

<https://www.birdcount.org/2022-final-results/>

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Wisdom, the Oldest Known Laysan Albatross, Returns to Midway Atoll in Her Eighth Decade

Wisdom, the female Laysan Albatross *Phoebastria immutabilis*, who is the world's oldest known banded wild bird, has been seen back on the USA's Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in the North Pacific. With an estimated minimum age of 70, she has now reached her eighth decade (click here). Wisdom was first seen at her nest usual nest site on the atoll's Sand Island -on 26 November, one day earlier than in 2020. The last sighting of Wisdom around her nest cup was made on 5 December.

"There have been no observations of Akeakamai [her mate of the last few seasons] this year and no evidence of a nest cup; so it is unlikely that they will nest this year," said Jon Plissner, Wildlife Biologist at Midway Atoll. "We will continue to monitor the area through the month of December, as a few new nest starts of Laysan Albatross can occur in December."

"It is normal for albatrosses take a year off from parenting between chicks. Wisdom and her mate have met on Midway Atoll to lay and hatch an egg almost every year since 2006. It is estimated that Wisdom has laid between 30–36 eggs in her lifetime. In 2018, her chick that fledged in 2001 was observed just a few feet away from her current nest, marking the first time a returning chick of hers has been documented. The chick returned to the same area each year since then but this December was found 200 yards [180 m] away on a nest of its own."

Access previous postings about Wisdom in Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) Latest News [here](#).

John Cooper, ACAP Information Officer, 23 December 2021

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<https://www.acap.aq/latest-news/4230-wisdom-the-oldest-known-laysan-albatross-returns-to-midway-atoll-in-her-eighth-decade>



Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum Field Trip— CANCELLED!!!

by Tyler Bell

I don't usually write a trip report for one that didn't happen. But, when they name a winter storm, Quinlan in this case, that's going to arrive just before the start time of your trip, it's prudent to throw in the towel. Attached are a couple of screen shots from my weather app. I think it was a good call.

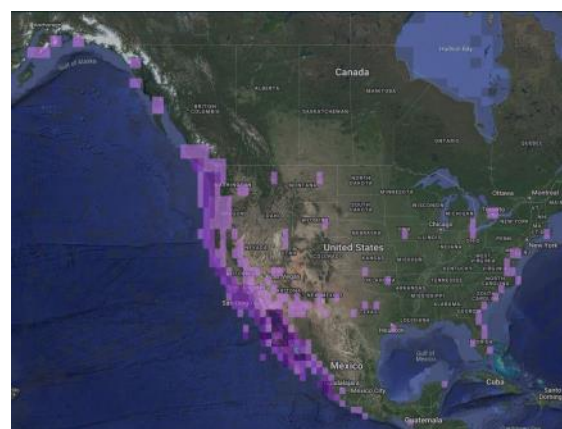


Heermann's Gull in Baltimore?!

by Tyler Bell

On Wednesday, March 30, Jeremy Pearse, a visiting birder from the UK, found an odd bird in the Inner Harbor of Baltimore. Based on the shape and color of the bill, he thought it was a jaeger which would be incredibly rare in the Chesapeake much less in the heart of Baltimore. He reported it to Phil Davis, the secretary of the MD/DC bird records committee, who determined it to be a Heermann's Gull before he posted it to the MDBirding email group. Since it was late on Friday, only the bravest of souls chased after it in the peak of rush hour. The bird seemed quite confiding, hanging around with Ring-billed Gulls begging for scraps. Saturday morning, April 2, Jane Kostenko and I headed north around sunrise trying to arrive in Baltimore early enough to find parking but not too late for the bird to have ventured off to the nearby landfill. We monitored a couple of texting groups and reports pinpointed the location, near the Coast Guard ship at the north end of Pier 5. We arrived in time for it to fly right over our heads before landing in the water near the ship. Lighting wasn't ideal for photographs but the dappled reflection from the nearby brick building made for some artistic shots.

There has been speculation that this is the same bird that has been wandering up the east coast this winter. It was most recently reported in Hopewell, Virginia. Since Heermann's Gulls are typically only found along the Pacific Coast, any showing up along the Atlantic Coast is almost unheard of. Since this bird is seriously lost, will it continue to migrate up and down the east coast? Will we see it again eventually as an adult? I sure hope so because they are one of the most beautiful gulls we've ever seen!



Heermann's Gull range map courtesy of eBird.org



Barn Owls and BBQ
Monday, April 25. 2022
5:00-7:30 PM
\$30 per person



Join Southern Maryland Audubon Society for the banding of nestlings and enjoy a BBQ dinner prepared by Founders Tavern and Grille.

Procedes benefit raptor conservation in SoMD. Space limited.

**To register, contact Mike Callahan
at raptorsrulemc@gmail.com or
(240) 765-5192**

April 2022—June 2022 Events

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).

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>



Prothonotary Warbler
Photo by Steve Arthur

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, Rm 143,
Charles County**

8730 Mitchell Rd, La Plata, MD 20646

***“Maryland Bird 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 Maryland Bird 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 E. 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.



April 2022—June 2022 Events continued

May 7 –SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Field Trip

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, Calvert County

10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard, MD 20685

SPRING MIGRANTS AT JPPM

Leader: Bob Boxwell

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum located on the Patuxent River in Calvert County offers woods, edge habitat, and open fields, which will provide a venue for a variety of migrants. The gates open at 7:30 and we will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the upper parking lot. RSVP to Bob at robertboxwell1@outlook.com or 410-610-5124.

SATURDAY, May 14 OR SUNDAY, May 15 (rain date)– All Day

COUNTY MAY COUNTS

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

Note: 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

ST. MARY'S: Tyler Bell (301-862-4623), jtylerbell@yahoo.com

June 5 – SUNDAY – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting and Picnic

Kings Landing Park Pavilion, Calvert County

3255 Kings Landing Road, Huntingtown, MD 20639

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

Come and join us as we appreciate this Calvert County Park with 265 acres of natural area on the Patuxent River, including 4,000 feet of river shoreline and 50 acres of marshland. Our picnic meeting will be held at a picnic pavilion, enabling us to immerse ourselves easily into the parks wonderful nature filled environment. Directions: From Rt 4 at Huntingtown turn onto Old Town Road (Rt. 524). Proceed to Bowen's Grocery Store and turn on Huntingtown Road (Rt. 521). At the 4-way stop intersection, continue straight, and you will be on Kings Landing Road. The road dead ends at the park. The pavilion is on the right approximately 75 feet past the park entrance.

Registration is open for the
2022 MOS Convention in
Solomons, MD, May 20-22!



Yellow-throated Warbler photo courtesy of Frode Jacobsen

Join MOS for spring birding in Southern MD!

We have opened registration for our annual convention in Solomons, MD, May 20 - 22, 2022, at the Solomons Inn Resort and Marina. Registration will be open until May 3rd, go to the [Registration webpage](https://www.mosconvention.org/) on the convention website <https://www.mosconvention.org/> to register. We have a special room rate for attendees, this rate is available until April 29th. Go to the [Accommodations webpage](#) on the convention website to get the details.



We are lining up interesting field trips and have started listing them on the [Field Trip page](#) on our convention website. Field trip sign-up starts April 1st and ends May 16th. MOS is excited to partner with Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS) this year. Their members have expertise in this part of Maryland and have helped us pick field trip locations. They are also providing leaders for some of our field trips.

The photo contest will be online again and is now open. You can upload your photos now through May 13th. Go to [Photo Contest – MOS Convention webpage](#) for more information and the link to upload your pictures. You can also vote for your favorite photograph. Photo contest attendee voting starts May 14th and ends May 19th.

MOS will follow the CDC, state and local guidelines that are in effect during the convention, May 20-22, 2022. All attendees are expected to be fully vaccinated against COVID and show their vaccination card or image at registration check-in.

MOS hopes to see you in Solomons, MD in May!

Welcome, New Members!

Elizabeth Bussey, Newburg

Barbara Carey, Saint Leonard

Erika Dinkel-Smith, Temple Hills

Elizabeth Fall, Lusby

Chris Hunsaker, Port Tobacco

Robert Kelly, Dunkirk

Karen Lane, Dunkirk

Jenelle Lyles, Clinton

Kimberly Matalik, Chesapeake Beach

Sharon P Musa, Clinton

Catherine Redding, Hollywood



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**

You might see other similar account names, but our official Instagram account is **@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** 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

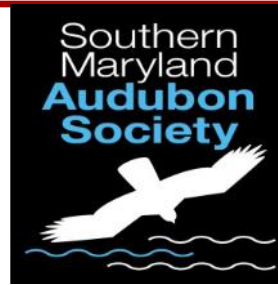
Photo by Bill Hubick

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—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