

The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY



Mississippi Kite catching a
dragonfly
Photo by Rose Wolfe

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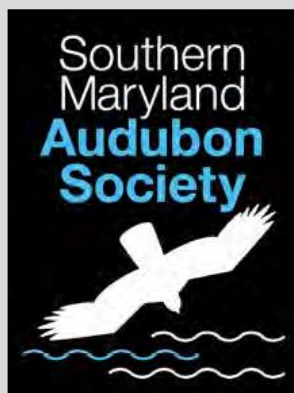
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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

President's Perch

From my perch as your new president, welcome to a new program year with Southern Maryland Audubon. I look forward to all your brilliant ideas, institutional knowledge and wise counsel over the next three years.

Each of us— as members of Southern Maryland Audubon—play such an important role every day helping our neighbors and political leaders understand, protect and appreciate birds. With forests and farmland being gobbled by development at a voracious pace across our region, our place as educators and advocates has never been more critical.

As birders, we also like to have fun! And birds have brought us so much joy during some bleak moments in the past couple of years. We look forward to resuming bird walks across Southern Maryland this fall. We will be adding new walks to old favorites. COVID hasn't left us, so our bird walk group sizes will be kept on the smaller side for the time being. All the more reason to stay tuned and sign up early!

And for now, our monthly meetings will continue to be conducted via Zoom. Our Zoom meeting attendance under our fabulous outgoing president, Tiffany Farrell, has actually been much larger than our in-person meetings of the past, helping us spread the word of birds to more people!

Because my son's college graduation was on the same weekend as our annual picnic and elections in June, I haven't been able to meet nearly as many of you as I would like. I should introduce myself:

I have been a birder since I was 8 years old when my family began raising wild ducks and geese under government permits in Louisiana. I spent 37 years as a journalist, most of that as a reporter and foreign correspondent for The Washington Post based in New Delhi, Mexico City, Istanbul, Islamabad, Jerusalem and Paris with my husband, John Anderson, also a Post reporter. For my second career, I have been a communications consultant to National Audubon and other conservation groups.

And now, for my third career, I am returning full-time to my lifelong passion for the outdoors—here with you at Southern Maryland Audubon, as a Charles County Master Gardener, a Maryland Master Naturalist based at the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center, and as a beekeeper.

I look forward to a great year of birding, supporting birds and meeting as many of you as possible. Want to get more involved in Audubon's volunteer work? Have a suggestion for speakers or field trips or projects? Have a gripe about something we're not doing? My inbox is always open to you at president.somdaudubon@gmail.com.

And please, invite your neighbors and friends to join us! All are welcome.

Happy and safe birding!
Molly

Insectival Festival!

By Molly Moore

Scorching July temperatures didn't deter kids and their families from flocking to the Southern Maryland Audubon Society's interactive exhibit at the Insectival Festival at the Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center in Solomons, MD. We used plastic insects hidden in trays of leaves to teach youngsters the importance of insects to birds. (96% of all terrestrial birds in North America need to feed insects to their chicks.) The annual festival in Calvert County highlights the importance of insects across our ecosystems.

We also distributed 75 packets of information on the importance of native plants for birds and beneficial insects to the accompanying adults who visited our exhibit. It was encouraging to hear from so many of the visitors that they are growing native plants in their yards and patios—especially those who live in the rapidly expanding new developments in Southern Maryland.



Annette Cook (left) and SMAS President Molly Moore (right) crewing the SMAS kiosk at the Insectival Festival



Welcome, New Members!

Eileen Abel, La Plata

Felipe Anova, Oxon Hill

Emma Boswell, Brandywine

Charles Brown, Charlotte Hall

Carolyn Core, La Plata

Kathryn Dailey, Leonardtown

Daryl Faustini, Waldorf

Charles H Gray, Marbury

Steve Ha, Waldorf

David C Heidelberg, Charlotte Hall

Becki Jenkins, Lusby

Sara Jones, Temple Hills

P. Keeton, Valley Lee

Helen Lucas, La Plata

Dean Newman, California

Raymond O'Toole, Huntingtown

Sharon Plympton, Nanjemoy

Elisavietta Ritchie, Solomons

Billy Robinson, Oxon Hill

Jessica Romanowski, Temple Hills

Carol Russell, Huntingtown

Jennie Shanks, California

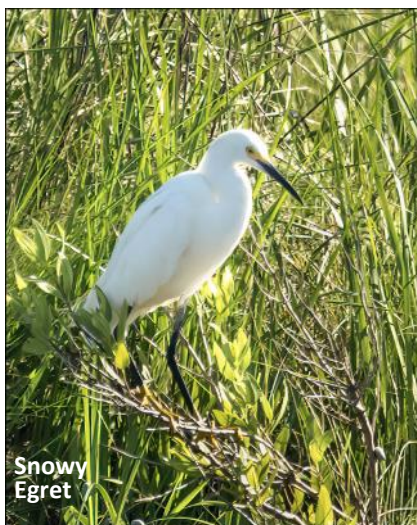
Gary K Smithers, Lusby

Brenda Weisman, California

Sue Wray, Fort Washington

Smith Island by Steve Arthur

Friday morning, June 24, 2022. It was a quiet, calm, clear blue sky morning when John eased his 23' center console boat from his boat launch site down a narrow channel and then slowly out into the Chesapeake Bay. Within 100 yards or so of his dock, we'd already spotted a Snowy Egret and a Green Heron. It was an omen of a good day ahead.



The day before, when it was evident from the weather report that this day was going to be a perfect for boating, we received a text message from our friends John Gasper and Shirley Gromen, asking us to join them for a trip to Smith Island and the Martin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), just north of Smith Island. They are avid birders and had mentioned to us previously that they'd be looking out for a good day to cross the Chesapeake Bay and would contact us "last minute" to see if we could join them. This was it.

Being boating novices, Betty and I were extremely happy (elated would be more accurate) to be heading out into the Bay on very calm waters. The precautionary pills we took for seasickness would probably have been unnecessary, but we weren't taking any chances. The trip across the Bay took about an hour. It was smooth and uneventful and we soon found ourselves cruising slowly along the shorelines of the Martin NWR. As we slowly meandered along, we spotted our first birds. Scattered along the rocks and reeds were numerous American Oystercatchers, as well as Little Blue Herons, Double-crested Cormorants and an occasional Glossy Ibis flying across the marshy landscape.



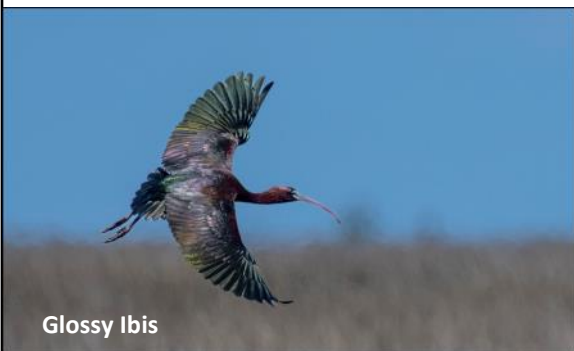
Nothing, however, could have adequately prepared us for what we were about to see. We knew there were pelicans nesting on these islands, but as we approached the Brown Pelican rookery areas, the numbers were astounding! Pelicans everywhere! And, most surprising to us was seeing them also comfortably resting/nesting in the midst of a great many Double-crested Cormorants and Great Black-backed Gulls. They all seemed to be getting along famously!



From Martin NWR, John expertly navigated to the small town of Tylerton (population 50) on Smith Island and we tied up to a public dock and walked into town. Ordinarily, we would have had the town pretty much to ourselves, but on this day another group of birders from Delmarva Birding Weekends almost doubled the island's population! Not content with such crowds, we did a quick walk around Tylerton and within ½ hour we were back on the boat and heading further south to Tangier Island.



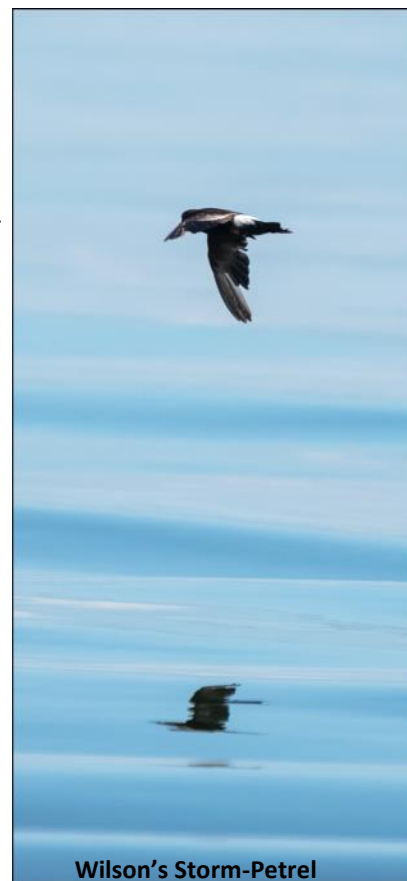
Great Blue Heron—Tangier Island, VA



Glossy Ibis

Approaching the Island through the main fishing channel, I was reminded of Jay Fleming's outstanding book, "Island Life," in which his photographs chronicle the history, culture and climate trajectory of these islands. We slowly motored through the Tangier North Channel, passing numerous dilapidated crab shacks and pondered just how long these islands can hold on. Since 1850, the island's landmass has been reduced by 67%. The current population as of the 2020 census was 680. The best projections suggest the remaining landmass will be gone in the next 50 years!

As we traversed the widest section of the Chesapeake Bay and headed back toward Point Lookout, we were on the lookout for the illusive Wilson's Storm-Petrel. Tyler Bell had given us a "heads-up" to be on the lookout for these birds, noting they generally show up in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay during the last two weeks of June to mid-July. Sure enough, we were not disappointed. We saw at least 6-8 Storm-Petrels! Not much bigger than an American Robin, it's often difficult to spot them in the open sea, but we were lucky to see and photograph them. Another "lifer!"



Wilson's Storm-Petrel



We were safely back at John and Shirley's dock near Point Lookout around 3:00, having traveled more than 60 miles on the Chesapeake Bay. We thanked our friends profusely for making this a day to remember. How fortunate we are to live in such a spectacular part of this country and to have such amazing birding hotspots as the Martin NWR to visit. Our eBird checklist of 28 species (and many more photos) is available at: <https://ebird.org/atlasmdcc/checklist/>

Maryland Pine Siskin in British Columbia!

We have another amazing data point to share!

A Pine Siskin we banded on 10/31/2020 was found dead in British Columbia, Canada on 5/16/2022. This is super cool for two reasons! First, most of our band recoveries are more or less in a north/south line from us (check out the map on our website Washington College) so this is interesting since it's east/west.

Secondly this bird was found 2,403 miles away! That's farther than the Osprey we banded that was recovered in Colombia! Pine Siskins are often nomadic, following seed crops and long distance east/west recoveries are not unusual for this species, but this individual sure expands our map!

Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory at
Washington College
300 Washington Avenue
Chestertown, MD 21620
1-800-422-1782



Global Big Day Update

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Participation in the Global Big Day of birding grows each year, and during this year's event on May 14th, it was another record-breaking celebration of birding! Although the final count is not complete yet, to date a total of 5,320 birders reported no less than 7,702 different species of birds! Colombian birders lead the species counts with 1,538, and American birders recorded 747 species, which ranks 7th among the 201 nations represented by participating birders. Canadian birders were 24th in total species recorded with 406 species, but ranked second in numbers of birders participating, with American birders ranked first in participants.

It is well known that the greatest diversity of birds in the world is concentrated where the Andes Mountains meet the Amazon River Basin, which is reflected by the highest species totals reported by birders in Colombia (1,538), Peru (1,430), Ecuador (1,125), Brazil (1,059), and Bolivia (818), although the United States was close behind with 747 species.

You can review all the interesting information and statistics provided by the Global Big Day by simply checking into eBird at Global Big Day - eBird and thanks to everyone who participated in this record-breaking event!



Purple Gallinules were reported from locations and nations from the United States to Argentina during the Global Big Day this year (photo by Paul Konrad).



Governor of the State of Maryland, to

MARYLAND OSPREY AND NATURE FESTIVAL , Greetings:

Be it Known: That on behalf of the citizens of this State, in recognition of a grateful tribute to honor and commend the growth and success of the Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival held annually the first week in April – a family-friendly event established to celebrate Maryland's charismatic Ospreys and provide increased education, support and funding for the benefit of conservation awareness; and as our citizens join in expressing our gratitude and sincere best wishes for continued success, we are pleased to confer upon you this

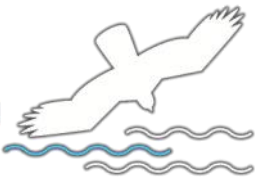
Governor's Citation



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
the 18th day of July
Two Thousand and twenty-two

Wesley C. Young
Governor

Robert H. L. L. L.
Lt. Governor
John C. W. W.
Secretary of State



Audubon

Please be a member of both National Audubon Society and SMAS!

This September will be our membership drive, you will see multiple communications to our avian-loving friends in Southern Maryland about why you should support National Audubon as well as the Southern Maryland Audubon Society with separate memberships.

Did you know when you join National Audubon Society you automatically become a member of our local chapter? Our local chapter receives a small portion of your well spent dollars, and you support National Audubon's powerful conservation efforts for birds across the globe. You also receive their quarterly award winning magazine, renowned for its photography, design, and writings that celebrate bird life, and probes into many of the most pressing issues facing the planet today. The most recent issue, Summer 2022, included the Audubon Photography Awards, everyone's favorite issue! Please support their efforts, go to [Audubon.org](https://audubon.org) and join!

While you are online, please log on to our local chapter website too and make an additional membership payment directly to us. Why? We rely heavily on our local chapter membership dollars. A third of our overall income comes from your donation. What do we spend your money on? New initiatives to research threatened grassland bird species such as the Eastern Meadowlark and Grasshopper Sparrow, educational outreach materials, and our largest expense-scholarships for teachers, environmental educators, and teens to attend Audubon Camp in Hog Island, Maine. Please, go to SoMdAudubon.org and join now!

Want to know your current membership status with National Audubon Society or our local chapter? Send me an email to SoMDAudubon@yahoo.com. As the membership chair I have all of the information!!

For the birds, our planet, and the future,

Lynne Wheeler, Membership Chair

September 2022— October 2022 Events

September 7 – WEDNESDAY – 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

[Monthly Meeting Program - Virtual Zoom Meeting](#)

"Natives for All Seasons: Winter Sowing and Native Plant Surprises"

MOLLY MOORE and LYNNE WHEELER, Southern Maryland Audubon Society, University of MD Charles County Master Gardeners

We all want to grow more natives for birds, wildlife and beauty in our yards and patios. But native plants can be expensive! Learn how to grow your own natives from seeds, on the cheap, in milk jugs in the dead of winter. Then stay tuned for a visual tour of unique and unusual native plants for all four seasons, including surprises that bloom in winter. Zoom in and join us online. The presentation is free and open to all. In order to receive the link to join this lecture you must sign up for our Osprey newsletter, please go to somdaudubon.org.

See the sign-up area at the bottom of the page. We will email you the link to join the lecture several days prior, as well as the same day of the lecture. (*Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists earn continuing education hours.*)



September 10 – SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP

Chancellor's Point, St. Mary's County

18171 Rosecroft Road, St. Mary's City, MD 20686

"MIGRATION ALONG THE ST. MARY'S RIVER"

Leader: Ben Springer

Join us for a fall meander to key bird migration hotspots in and around Historic St. Mary's City, which can be easily combined with a visit to the site of Maryland's first capital. The combination of riverfront, open fields, forest and marshland provide us with a chance to look for migrating warblers as well as lingering breeding birds.

Meet leader at 8 am at the Chancellors Point Park parking lot. Directions: Driving south on Rte. 5 from St. Mary's City, turn right on Rosecroft Road. In one mile, watch for signs for Chancellors Point Park. Turn right onto access road and follow signs to the end. (GPS coordinates: 38.1694115, -76.4407542.) Maximum of 10 participants.

RSVP required to Ben at 443-771-6636 (text preferred) or ben.springer@comcast.net.

September 17 – SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Point Lookout State Park, St. Mary's County

11175 Point Lookout Road, Scotland, MD 20687

"MIGRATION ON THE POINT"

Leader: Tyler Bell

Join us at Southern Maryland's premier birding hotspot as fall migrants funnel south to cross the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. Loblolly pines, mixed hardwoods, beaches, marshes and broad water views regularly deliver a wide variety of species and occasional rarities. Contact leader for meeting location. (Do not proceed directly to the park entrance.) Fee area. RSVP required to Tyler at 301-862-4623 or tylerbell@yahoo.com

September 24 – SATURDAY - 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

FIELD TRIP – S MD Youth Birders Event

Tilghman Lake Park, Charles County

10598 Box Elder Rd, La Plata, MD 20646

"YOUTH BIRDING AT TILGHMAN LAKE: A BIRD CITY EVENT"

Leader: Phin Rouland

Calling on all kids!! This birding field trip is targeting all youth interested in joining our Southern Maryland Youth Birders Club, or simply want to learn more about birds and get together with other kids that are also interested in birds. We will start off with a one-hour discussion: Birding 101- The Basics of Birding, bird migration, and Town of La Plata becoming the first Bird City MD, and what that means to us! Meet at the pavilion, the discussion will be followed with a two-hour bird walk around the lake. Loaner binoculars provided, but please bring your own if you have them! NOTE: This event will include two adults for supervision of youth. [Geared for ages 7 – 18. All youth under the age of 12 must include an adult.](#) Maximum of 12 youth participants. RSVP required to Lynne Wheeler at 301-751-8097 (text preferred) or somdaudubon@yahoo.com

September 2022— October 2022 Events continued

September 25 – SUNDAY - 8 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP

Historic Sotterley, St. Mary's County

44300 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636

"BIRDING THE FIELDS AND TRAILS OF SOTTERLEY"

Leader: David Moulton

Join us for a fall excursion to this scenic and historic Patuxent River property, sponsored jointly by SMAS and Historic Sotterley. Bald Eagles, migrant songbirds and lingering meadowlarks and sparrows can be found via Sotterley's trails and river views.

Directions: From Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road; turn right through gates to the Historic Sotterley visitors' center parking lot. Maximum of 10 Participants. RSVP required to David at 240-278-4473 or moulton.davidh@gmail.com.

October 2 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Cove Point Beach and Marsh, Calvert County

Exact location and directions given upon reservation

"SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS AND MIGRANTS"

Leader: Bob Boxwell

Cove Point beach and marsh is a unique habitat on the Western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. A living shoreline project is helping to restore the fresh water marsh from salt water incursion. We will target sparrows, marsh inhabitants and migrants. This is a restricted area and we are limited to ten guests. RSVP by September 28th to Bob at 410-231-125 or robertboxwell1@outlook.com

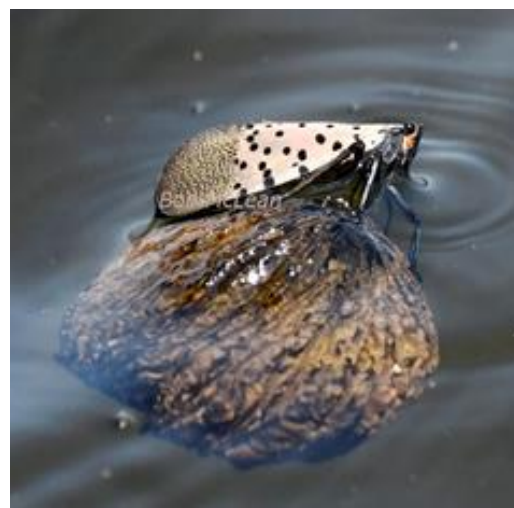
October 5 – WEDNESDAY – 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Monthly Meeting Program - Virtual Zoom Meeting

"Getting Ahead of the Spotted Lantern Fly Invasion in Maryland"

KENTON SUMPTER, Entomologist, Maryland Department of Agriculture

Kenton Sumpter will discuss how Maryland's Department of Agriculture (MDA) has been active since 2018 in combating the spread of this non-native invasive species which is strongly attracted to and attacks tree-of-heaven, grape, black walnut, maple, willow, and white pine. If all goes well, DNR hopes to have a substantial impact on limiting the spread of SLF going into 2023, and to effectively educate the citizens of Maryland on how to help eradicate this invasive species, where they find them, and report their sightings to MDA. Zoom in and join us online. The presentation is free and open to all. In order to receive the link to join this lecture you need to sign up for our Osprey newsletter, please go to somdaudubon.org. See the sign-up area at the bottom of the page. We will email you the link to join the lecture several days prior, as well as the same day of the lecture.



Join SMAS on Facebook and Instagram!



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

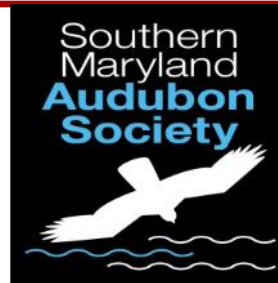
Photo by Bill Hubick

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, Molly Moore - president.somdaudubon@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