

The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY



Swamp Darter footprints
Photo by Carrie Staples

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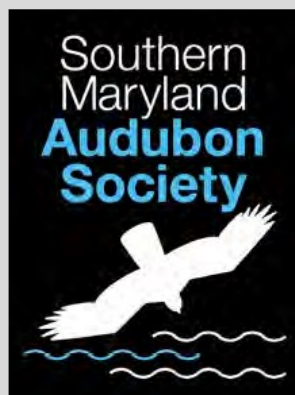
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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

President's Perch

Anyone who's seen a flock of Canada Geese sully a grassy roadside strip or a suburban yard may not believe the story I'm about to tell.

In the mid-20th century, the Canada Goose was nearly extinct, the wetlands it needed for survival drained or too polluted to support them. By the 1960s and early 70s, their plight was so dire that federal and state conservation agencies came to amateur aviculturists—like my family in southern Louisiana—and gave us breeding pairs in hopes they'd reproduce in captivity in our one-acre wetland compound.

My brothers and I named our four "honkers" after the Beatles (even though two were female.) Ringo, John, Paul and George failed to procreate, but they ate corn out of my hand, nuzzled my arm and cemented my life-long affection for Canada Geese.

That's why I am at least a little heartened by the new 2022 State of the Birds report. Grim as many of its overall findings are, there is a clear stand-out success story. Geese—including Canada Geese—and swans, are off-the-charts thriving. Populations are up a whopping 1,076 percent since 1970! RIP Ringo, John, Paul and George.

I realize this may not be happy news for the many folks who now consider the Canada Goose a nuisance bird. But a leap from near extinction to nuisance in a few decades is nothing short of a conservation miracle. It helped that the geese themselves became more adaptable to change in habitat in order to survive.

Alas, many of the birds we love are going to need more than miracles to thrive in the coming years. Birds that have called southern Maryland home for centuries are in deep trouble. Populations of grassland birds are down 34 percent and eastern forest birds have declined 27 percent since 1970. Shorebirds are down 33 percent since 1980 when data was first collected.

It's going to take the concerted effort of policymakers at every level of government, conservationists, farmers, and backyard gardeners, and most important—*each one of us*—to make sure species don't disappear completely from our state. That is at the heart of all of our work.

Southern Maryland Audubon is recruiting local farmers to use bird-friendly harvest cycles to protect threatened grassland species like the Eastern Meadowlark and Grasshopper Sparrow.

We are erecting Barn Owl nesting boxes in the very specific habitats they need to survive—open fields on the edges of marshlands and forests.

We are urging Southern Marylanders to give up portions of their manicured lawns to native plants, shrubs, grasses, and trees to help ameliorate the rapid loss of wild habitat to urban and suburban development.

President's Perch continued on page 2

President's Perch, continued

And under the skilled and watchful eye of our Conservation Chair Robert Lukinich, we don't just monitor the pending decisions of local commissioners, planning and zoning officials, state legislators, Congress, and federal agencies. We speak up on behalf of birds at every level of government.

As Thanksgiving approaches, and indeed every day of the year, we are tremendously grateful to you—our members, donors, and supporters— who help us give voice to the birds that need our help now more than ever.

Thank you, happy birding and happy Thanksgiving,
Molly



Bald Eagle, left, is an example of how conservation efforts saved a bird from the brink of extinction. Grassland birds, such as the Eastern Meadowlark, right, are declining dramatically and need our help.

Photos by Dean Newman

Welcome, New Members!

Nikki Churchwell, North Beach

Bruce Cobb, Chesapeake Beach

Sabine Dillingham, California

David Lawlor, Indian Head

Takako Mato, Bryans Road

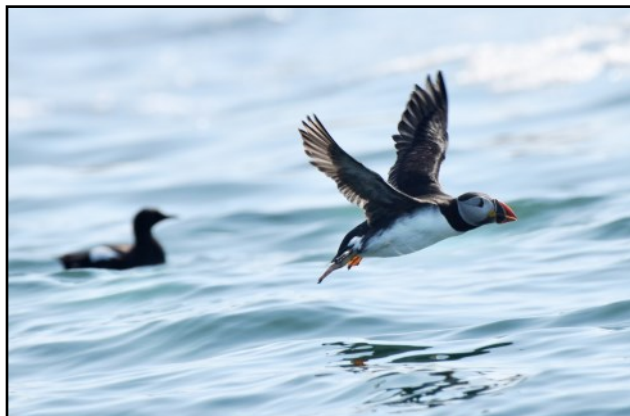
Stephanie Niemi, Lexington Park

Thomas Shaver, Valley Lee

Selvius W Turner, Temple Hills

Corrections to the October 2022 Issue

The article "Audubon Educators Hog Island Camp 2022" misattributed some photos. The aerial shot of Hog Island (p. 5) was taken by CJ Goulding. Anna Shaheen captured the picture of the Black Guillemot and Atlantic Puffin (photo right and p. 6). The portrait of John Sullens (author, p. 6) was taken by an unknown photographer.



2022 State of the Birds

by Molly Moore

The authors of the latest State of the Birds report describe it as a tale of two trends: One dire, one hopeful.

Maryland straddles both. On the hopeful side, the long-term population trends of our much-loved waterfowl show extraordinary increases.

Numbers of geese and swans have skyrocketed 1,076 percent, dabbling and diving duck numbers are up 34 percent and waterbirds have increased 18 percent since 1970, the base year for the bird counts.

That is a direct result of years of conservation efforts and money dedicated to cleaning the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed and protecting vulnerable wetlands from development and pollution here in Maryland and along other U.S. coastlines. Scientists credit the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the U.S. Farm Bill Conservation programs for contributing heavily to the conservation efforts in Maryland and other states.

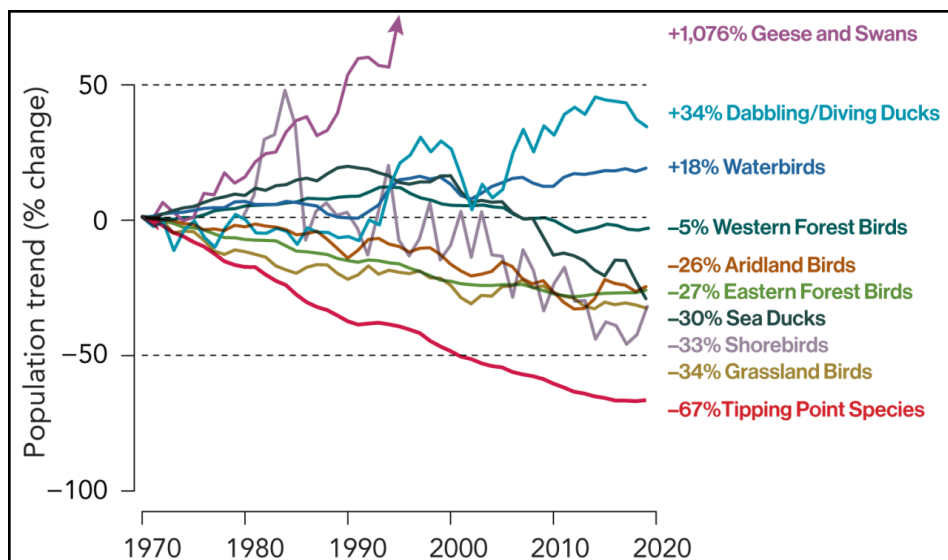
Now for the downsides: Grassland birds have declined 34 percent, shorebirds are down 33 percent, and Eastern forest birds have plummeted 27 percent.

Why are shorebirds declining while most geese, swans and ducks are doing well?

“Many shorebirds make epic long-distance migrations, flying thousands of miles between Arctic breeding grounds and South American wintering areas—and encountering threats throughout the Western Hemisphere,” according to the report.

The State of the Birds report is published by Audubon and 32 other leading science and conservation organizations and agencies. The report covers population shifts for 259 species of North American birds. It is based on data from five major scientific and community science surveys—including the annual Christmas Bird Count which will be conducted in late December through early January.

Three billion birds have been lost from the United States and Canada in the past 50 years—that’s one in four breeding birds, the report finds.



2022 State of the Birds, Courtesy of Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Seventy species are now at a tipping point. They have lost two-thirds of their populations and are on a downward track to lose another 50 percent in the next 50 years. These birds are highly vulnerable to steep population declines, and even extinction. Many already have perilously small populations.

Those tipping point species include some of our Maryland favorites such as the Chimney Swift, Evening Grosbeak and the long-distance marathon migrator—the Whimbrel. Evening Grosbeaks, for example, have declined an alarming 90% since 1970.

Twenty other species are on alert status including the Wood Thrush (the official bird of the District of Columbia), Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Whip-poor-will and Cerulean Warbler.

So, what action can be taken to curb these disturbing declines?

The study offered a long list of strategies including:

Bird Protections: Millions of birds are saved from harm through implementation of wildlife laws such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which has prohibited killing or capturing protected species for more than a century.

On Land: Each year, hundreds of millions of birds die in window collisions in the U.S. and Canada. Federal, state, and local efforts can take action to limit collisions.

Continued on page 4

2022 State of the Birds, continued

At Sea: Many seabird species are among the world's most imperiled birds and are at risk as commercial fisheries by-catch on our oceans. International efforts can expand coordination and implement actions to save seabirds.

The fastest, most effective way to bring birds back is proactive bird conservation before a species requires Endangered Species Act protection. And it benefits everyone: birds, landowners, businesses, and communities in every state.

Population rebounds of waterfowl clearly demonstrate that when investments in habitat conservation are made, we can bring birds back. At the same time, continuing declines in other habitats show the critical need to restore ecosystems under stress.

Despite their decades-long gains, ducks continue to face pressures from grassland habitat loss, wetland drainage, coastal wetland loss, and climate change impacts. Recent droughts have tipped duck populations downward—underscoring the need for continued conservation investments to keep duck populations healthy and resilient.

When funding is dedicated to help a bird in distress—and science guides conservation action—bird populations respond with big gains. But that's not all. Ecosystem restoration is like the rising tide that lifts all boats; many other at-risk species of wildlife and plants benefit from habitat conservation for birds.

Recent research points to the interconnectedness of birds and plants, and shows why bringing back birds is a key to ensuring climate adaptation for plants. The study, published in the journal *Science* showed that the ability of animal-dispersed plants to keep pace with climate change has been reduced by 60% due to the loss of birds, as well as mammals.

More than half of all plant species rely on animals to disperse their seeds, and the seed stage is the only time when plants have the opportunity to move into latitudes or elevations where climatic conditions may be most suitable in the future. Put simply, the loss of birds has much larger ecosystem ramifications; and conversely, the revival of bird populations holds the potential for much broader biodiversity gains.

Birds and people alike need healthy environments. Several recent studies show that Black, Latino, and Indigenous communities experience outsized environmental risks. Col-

laborative environmental investments in disadvantaged communities can advance environmental justice along with the conservation of birds.

Each of us can make a difference in turning around declines. Each of us can help green our neighborhoods, plant more natives and stop using pesticides and that harm birds.

Everyone with a window can use simple solutions to curb bird collisions.

Everyone who lives in a neighborhood can bring the issues and solutions to their community and use their voice to take action on behalf of birds.

J. Drew Lanham author, professor of wildlife ecology and recent winner of a MacArthur “genius” award, has advice for all of us who love birds:

“Perhaps if we all saw ourselves as wild canaries in a global mine of finite resources and limited time, we’d become more urgent in our advocacy.

“Yes, millions make birds their hobby and perhaps thousands a profession. But it isn’t just enough to watch or count or research or manage or even declare our love for the backyard robin, the shorebird at the beach, or the rare warbler in some hard-to-reach wilderness.”

Lanham warns, “The dire circumstances at hand demand we activate affection, profession, and obsession into policy and practice that mitigate the storms that stall flight and ditch so many species into seas of declining despair.”

[Editor’s Note: To download the entire report, please click on this link:

<https://www.stateofthebirds.org/2022/> |



Red-headed Woodpecker photo by Bill Hubick

Youth Birding Trip at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum

by Lynne Wheeler

On Saturday, October 29, ten of us young and somewhat older, enjoyed the fall beauty of Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum. The combination of falling leaves, and flying birds, is a delightful way to spend a morning, as well as seeing the excitement in the eyes of young birders.

This location offers up so much - archeological sites, a woodland Native American village, and a fabulous habitat for birds. Our bird walk, led by Phin Rouland, our Southern Maryland Youth Birders Club leader, started in the parking lot area with some of our new arrivals, White-throated Sparrows, and it only took about 30 steps to give us a flying flock of Cedar Waxwings, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers in the trees, as well as Northern Mockingbirds, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. These were quickly followed by Brown Thrasher and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. We all enjoyed the beauty of bright Eastern Bluebirds flitting around in a Red Maple tree – it was a striking view to see!

We continued our walk down to the woodland Native American village, and then to the boardwalk along the Patuxent River, sighting numerous Blue Jays, as well as Northern Flickers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and Brown-headed Cowbirds. The boardwalk area offered up Song, and Swamp Sparrows. As we gazed across the river to see a good mix of Laughing Gulls and terns, Common Loon, as well as flying Double-crested Cormorants.

Nearing the end of our walk as we headed back, our “best bird” was a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Not only did it perch for us, it then offered up great views of it soaring and diving. I was rooting for it to find the European Starling flock!

A nearby field added American Goldfinch, House Finch and Purple Finch, but the best was prior to the parking lot, a Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Our total species count was 45 – a good day!

Throughout the bird walk I must admit, my favorite part of the trip was watching our ten-year-old Ben. He was quiet like a Hermit Thrush (we heard one of them, too!) and very focused in his hunt for birds. I can’t wait to watch him spread his wings in his journey of discovering birds.



Sharp-shinned Hawk soaring, above, and JPPM group, right, photos by Gabriel LaCount



Our Feathered, Human, and Tech Friends!

Story and Photos by Steve Arthur

Over the last 3-4 years, my wife and I have found these three key things to be our most important ingredients for successful birding - especially important for new or relatively new birders, which we are. Without our birding friends (*mostly acquainted with through the Southern Maryland Audubon Society*), and all the amazing technology and apps available (*eBird, Merlin Bird ID, iBird Pro, Sibley V2, Audubon, Warbler Guide and GroupMe*), learning about birds would be a much more difficult and frustrating experience. This is a brief story of just one day, highlighting how all three (*birds, friends and tech*) interacted for a fun morning of birding.

Betty and I headed out for Point Lookout State Park on a nice, relatively cool cloudy morning, after an early morning rain. It was Tuesday October 25. Point Lookout is our absolute favorite birding location and we probably visit there at least once a week (except during summer)! On this particular morning, we stopped first at Camp Brown Road to quickly check the small pond and we were happy to spot 6-8 Gadwalls and one Green-winged Teal. I immediately posted online that we'd seen these birds in order for others to know their location. Where did I post it? That requires a little backstory.



3 Gadwalls & 1 Green-winged Teal
Camp Brown Road, Scotland, MD

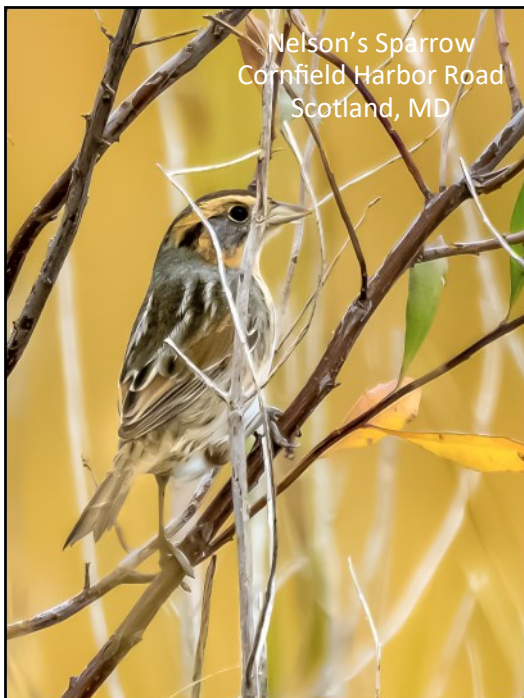
eBird



groupme



About a year or so ago, a few of the more tech savvy local birders (Scott Clark, Phin Rouland and Jim Stasz) suggested using the GroupMe mobile app as a way to quickly notify other area birders who might be interested in rare or interesting birds. Scott Clark set it up and called it the Southern Maryland Rare Bird Alert, or **SMD RBA** for short. It was on this app that I posted our observation of the Gadwalls and Green-winged Teal on Camp Brown Road.



Nelson's Sparrow
Cornfield Harbor Road
Scotland, MD

Within minutes of posting our sighting of the Gadwalls, I got a phone call from Scott Clark. He had seen my post on the GroupMe app. He and Phin Rouland just happened to be birding nearby on Long Neck Road. He just wanted us to know that they had been down Cornfield Harbor Road earlier that morning and saw/heard a Nelson's Sparrow and Sedge Wren. He gave us very specific directions to find them... "go to the 3rd telephone pole past the bridge... the Nelson's Sparrow is on the left in the tall grasses, the Sedge Wren on the right!"

With that very helpful information, we took off for Cornfield Harbor Road. Although it took over an hour of patiently listening and looking, We eventually caught sight of the Nelson's Sparrow (*between 3rd & 4th telephone poles*) and I captured the image below. Another "lifer" for us. We picked up the vocalization of the Sedge Wren on Merlin Bird ID, but as we're no experts, we don't count it if we don't see it!

Continued on page 7. See Feathered Friends

Feathered Friends, continued

With that, we departed Cornfield Harbor area and spent the rest of the morning at Point Lookout State Park. Again, technology plays a part here as the day before, we'd seen on the eBird Maryland Rare Bird Alert that a White-winged Scoter had been spotted near the lighthouse at the Point.

Sure enough, swimming by itself on the Potomac River side of the lighthouse, near 2-3 pilings just offshore, was the White-winged Scoter. Interestingly, two years ago almost to the day (October 27, 2020), we had spotted and photographed a solo White-winged Scoter in exactly the same spot. Could this be the same bird?



But the most interesting thing for the morning was around 11:30... we drove into one of the side roads (*the one that goes out towards the fort area - restrooms*) and parked right in the middle of the road so that we could see the woods on both sides - about 50 yds before getting to the restrooms. As we were eating our picnic lunch, all of a sudden there was a huge commotion - 4-6 crows were just going nuts with their frantic cawing! We couldn't figure it out, but it sounded as if they were "mobbing" something. Turns out those crows were upset over a Barred Owl who was sitting on an old log maybe 30 yards from us and in clear view. Here's my best photo of the standoff with the crows... if you look carefully in the upper left corner you can see TWO crows (*one easily and one kind of hidden further up*). The owl is giving them its full attention. After the crows left, the owl stayed in that immediate location and I got several other photos... it was watching me all the time.

All told that morning, we tallied 33 birds and had a great time. Without our friends (Scott and Phin on this particular morning) and our technology (GroupMe, Merlin Bird ID and eBird apps), it wouldn't have been nearly as much fun or as successful.

Dear Readers:

If you have any observations, announcements, articles, etc. that you'd like to see in the newsletter, send them in! The deadline for submissions for The Osprey is the 5th of each month. Since this winter is shaping up to be a winter finch irruption, perhaps you have some photos that you'd like to share? Or, as in this month's article by Steve Arthur (above), a birding/nature outing that you recently enjoyed. We're always looking for member contributed content!

December 2022— February 2023 Events

Dec. 7- WEDNESDAY-7:00-8:00 p.m.

Monthly Meeting Program - Virtual Zoom Meeting

“TALES OF A BIRD PHOTOGRAPHER.”

Nature photographer Dean Newman shares his amazing wildlife photos and tales from his travels across the Western Hemisphere in search of birds, mammals and reptiles. He’s been beat up by a male Rhea in Brazil, lost toenails to frost-bite in Minnesota and cussed out by angry guides. And along the way, he’ll share tips on how you can take better nature photos.

Presentation is free and open to all.

To receive the link to join please sign up for our *Osprey* newsletter at the bottom of our homepage somdaudubon.org.

We will email the link several days prior to and within 24 hours of the lecture.

January 4 -WEDNESDAY-7 p.m-8 p.m.

Monthly Meeting Program - Virtual Zoom Meeting

“SAVING MARYLAND’S MARSHLAND BIRDS”

David Curson, director of Maryland bird conservation for Mid-Atlantic Audubon, reveals the results of conservation programs that are saving some of Maryland’s most vulnerable species and what we need to do to protect their habitat in the coming years.

(Qualifies for continuing education for Maryland Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners)

January 13 – FRIDAY – 7:00 p.m. FIELD TRIP – GREAT FAMILY OWTING!!

FIELD TRIP

Elms Environmental Center, St. Mary’s County 49300 St. James Church Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653

“OWL PROWL AT THE ELMS”

Leader(s): Bob Boxwell and Margarita Rochow.

Come “call out” the owls!! Owls are nocturnal, and therefore not easy to spot. A great Friday night family outing at The Elms. Dress appropriately for the weather, and avoid noisy clothing. This event is weather dependent. Rain or high winds will result in cancellation. Directions: Take Rt 235 south, left onto St. James Church Road (opposite Mattapan Rd). You will see the sign for The Elms Environmental Education Center. We will meet in the hunter’s dirt parking lot on the right 100 yards before the gate (Do not drive past the gate!) RSVP to Bob Boxwell

at robertboxwell1@outlook.com or 410-610-5124.

February 1- WEDNESDAY-7p.m.-8 p.m.

Monthly Meeting Program - Virtual Zoom Meeting

“BRING YOUR KIDS TO AUDUBON NIGHT”

Meet some of our star youth birders, learn about their amazing conservation projects and discover how the newest generation of birders are changing birding and bird conservation. You’ll learn how to apply for our 2023 youth scholarship to a summer birding and conservation camp at Audubon’s Hog Island in Maine which has one of the East Coast’s largest Puffin populations. We’ll also describe our Hog Island scholarships for teachers and other conservation educators.

February 11 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, 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 jttylbell@yahoo.com or 301-862-4623.

Continued on page 9

December 2022— February 2023 Events continued

February 18 – SATURDAY - 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

FIELD TRIP – A Great Family Outing!

Indian Head Riverwalk, Charles County

165 Riverwatch Drive, Indian Head, MD 20640

“GBBC on the River”

Leader: Lynne Wheeler

Come and enjoy a winter walk through the woods to a 1,200 feet long boardwalk along the Potomac River. A great bird walk for families! We will also participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count - a global project where the world comes together for the love of birds. We will report our observations to help scientists better understand bird populations before one of their annual migrations. Expect to see many Bald Eagles and rafts of waterfowl, as well as winter birds in the wooded section. Due to limited parking, we will meet at the Indian Head pavilion parking lot at 100 Walter Thomas Road, Indian Head, MD 20640. We will carpool and/or do drop offs to the boardwalk. RSVP to Lynne Wheeler at 301-751-8097 (text only) or somdaudubon@yahoo.com

123rd Christmas Bird Count



Please join us and help count birds. Participate in one of the largest and oldest citizen science programs. Beginner birders welcome!

Dec 18 – Point Lookout, MD

Compiler: Bob Boxwell, 410-610-5124 or robertboxwell1@outlook.com

Dec 18 – Port Tobacco, MD

Mike Callahan, 240-765-5192 or raptorsrulemc@gmail.com

Dec 31 – Fort Belvoir, VA and MD (shoreline Accokeek to Indian Head)

MD Sector Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler, 301-751-8097 or somdaudubon@yahoo.com and

Bob Lukinic, 301-283-6317 or rdlukinic@gmail.com

Dec 31 – Patuxent River, MD

Compiler: Ben Springer, ben.springer@comcast.net



Scholarships to Audubon Hog Island

Southern Maryland Audubon Society is now accepting applications for scholarships to Audubon Camp in Hog Island, Maine. For 2023, SMAS will offer three types of camp scholarships for teens, educators, or others with a serious interest in ornithology, bird watching, or environmental and nature studies. Applications must be received by **February 28**. The scholarships cover tuition, room, and board. The recipient is responsible for all travel expenses. For details about each camp scholarship and Covid-19 vaccination requirements go to the Audubon Hog Island website at <https://hogisland.audubon.org/programs>

CAMP PROGRAMS OFFERED

Birders	Field Ornithology	June 18 – June 23
Teens	Mountains to Sea Birding for Teens (ages 14 -17)	June 25 – June 30
Teachers	Sharing Nature: An Educators Week	July 16 – July 21

Applicants must be residents of Southern Maryland. To apply please send a one page letter explaining:

How you will benefit from the Hog Island opportunity?

How you will use the experience and knowledge to benefit others in Southern Maryland and support the SMAS mission?

Your signed letter must include:

Mailing Address

Email Address

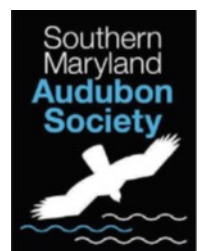
Phone Number

One or more signed letters of recommendation describing your interests, abilities, and how the experience will benefit either your organization or the SMAS mission.

Scholarship recipients must submit a written article for our *Osprey* newsletter about their experience by August 7, and possibly a brief presentation at one of the future Monthly Meeting Programs for 2023 – 2024.

Please send applications to:

Tracey Stuller, Education Committee Chair
Southern Maryland Audubon Society
smaseducationchair@gmail.com



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

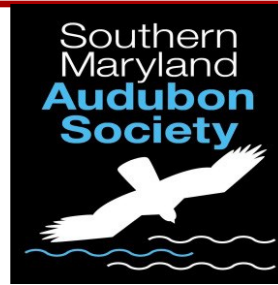
Photo by Bill Hubick

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