

The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

President's Perch

Take Delight in Slow Birding

Some birders view birding as a sprint to see how many different species they can identify on each field trip. Others look at birding as a marathon for building a huge "life list," always seeking that new species.

I believe the best way to enjoy birds is by "slow birding." What is slow birding? It's all about pausing to get to know birds better, to watch a single bird and how it is responding to its environment.

We'd all benefit from taking a few pages out of Dr. Joan E. Strassmann's new book, "Slow Birding: The Art and Science of Enjoying the Birds in your Own Backyard."

An animal behaviorist and biology professor, Dr. Strassmann offers some unique tips for better understanding birds: "I like to watch birds before breakfast, when I'm hungry. I feel it connects me, because birds are always hungry."

Now is a great season for slow birding and taking the time to get to know birds better. Migration is on with millions of birds looking for inviting rest stops (plant more natives!) and others returning to our area to raise families.

Hundreds of local birders currently are participating in the MD-DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 project. This survey forces you to slow down and closely observe individual birds. Rather than just log the name of a bird and move on to the next, you have to record what each bird is doing. Is it flirting with a potential mate? Is it toting sticks or grass to build a nest? Is it carrying an insect or caterpillar to feed its young?

Scientists and conservationists use these observations to "identify trends, changes in distributions, and any new breeding species gained or lost," according to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. "We can then compare the data to habitat and land use changes which will better inform our management decisions for conserving Maryland's birds."

If you'd like to learn more about joining this community science effort visit: https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/Breeding-Bird-Atlas.aspx

Using data from numerous citizen science surveys, Southern Maryland Audubon has been instrumental in establishing several Important Bird Areas (IBA) in our region, including the American Chestnut Land Trust in Calvert County. One of our chapter leaders, Bob Boxwell, is leading an effort to monitor the migratory birds on the property during the spring. That survey involves repeat visits to several spots to study the activities of particularly vulnerable birds, especially Forest Interior Dwelling Species. Please check out the story on page 7 in this newsletter to learn how you can participate.

Slow down and ...
Happy birding!
Molly



Great Blue Heron
Sketch by Carrie Staples

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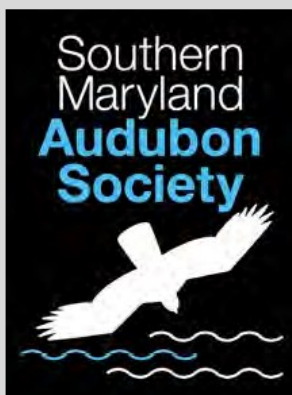
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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

Nest Boxes: Spring Planning & Prep

It's that time of year to prepare for our cavity nesting birds; more specifically to get our nest boxes and birdhouses (different only by name) ready to provide a cavity nesting location. Perhaps you are interested in building or buying new nest boxes, and you will want to check your existing nest boxes to make sure they are clean and well-maintained. Providing a nesting structure for a favorite species of birds is fun, as well as fulfilling, and sometimes exhilarating. Take pride in your efforts to help benefit some of our most popular birds that will help you enjoy the upcoming nesting season all the more.

What species do you want to attract to nest in your yard? Keep in mind that only cavity nesting birds nest in bird houses or nest boxes, but that includes 88 different species within the US and Canada, with some favorite species among cavity nesters - bluebirds, wrens, chickadees, titmice, and some swallows are among the of cavity nesting birds in North America. So, you have a great opportunity to attract some interesting birds that will add their songs and spring activities to your yard, but there are a variety of options to keep in mind.

If you want to attract wrens, you need to provide a nest box that provides the right sized entrance hole and position it in their preferred habitat, protected from potential predators by a predator guard. Easy enough, but it will take a few moments of research to get this information. It's the same for bluebirds, chickadees, Prothonotary Warblers, and any other birds you would like to attract. By meeting their favored standards, such as the distance above ground you position the nest box, the direction it faces, and a variety of other options, you increase the chance of attracting the birds you want to attract, while reducing the chances of attracting another species. Some species prefer open areas, others like overgrown areas, some are more rural in their tastes, while a some prefer a wetland edge or stream.

Luckily, there is an excellent source of information about all things related to cavity nesting birds and how to fulfill their preferences: It's NestWatch, and their comprehensive website may well take you to new levels of understanding and interest in birdhouses, nest boxes, and cavity nesting birds. See [NestWatch | All About Birdhouses - NestWatch](#) and [NestWatch | Features of a Good Birdhouse - NestWatch](#)

Realistically, providing a nest box can be as easy or as enhanced as you wish to make it, and often LUCK plays a big part in any effort to attract specific cavity nesting birds. But you can increase your luck by providing all the right stuff, which is outlined species by species in the NestWatch webpage at [NestWatch | Nest Box Placement - NestWatch](#)

Improving Existing Birdhouses

Even if you already have as many nest boxes as you want to provide in your yard, it's very worthwhile to take a look at the birdhouses you have each spring. This year, let's make a special inspection of our existing nest boxes to be sure they have all the things outlined in "Features of a Good Birdhouse," as outlined by NestWatch. Are your birdhouses predator-proof? Are you attracting House Sparrows rather than native cavity nesting species? Elevate your interests as a birdhouse landlord to upgrade the nesting sites you provide for birds in your yard while making them a cohesive part of your landscaping. It's all part of the growth we all experience year by year – starting as we plan for spring and the birds that will choose our yards as their backyard habitat.

Conservation Contributions

Always appreciate that you are providing a very important element for a pair of nesting birds with a birdhouse. Natural tree cavities and woodpecker-excavated nesting cavities are in short supply for cavity nesting birds in North America. The lack of adequate natural cavities, including woodpecker-excavated nesting cavities, creates a lot of competition, and may even mean that some pairs won't nest during a given spring season. That's where we birders come onto the scene, by adding nest boxes to our yards.

Continued on page 3, see **Nest Boxes**

Nest Boxes continued

Some birders don't stop at their property line; they look for other locations to add nest boxes to provide adequate nest sites in rural locations, nature centers, refuges, and other suitable areas – after obtaining the cooperation of landowners and land managers. Every birdhouse and nest box counts, and considering some species nest multiple times during a single season, a successful nesting pair can raise a surprising number of fledglings – with the right sized, predator-proof nest box positioned in the right habitat.

Building nest boxes can be a fun project – a true conservation project – that you can share with family members, scout groups, church groups, birding club members – young and old. For more information about how to build the right nest boxes to attract the birds you wish to share your spring with, refer to [NestWatch | All About Birdhouses - NestWatch](#) and [NestWatch | Features of a Good Birdhouse - NestWatch](#)

Is this the year for you to add a Big Nest Box to your property? Big nest boxes provide another level of satisfaction as you try to attract a nesting screech owl, Wood Duck, American Kestrel, or another of the larger cavity nesting birds. Providing a Big Nest Box is a specialized aspect of nest boxes that we will provide more information later. Also, keep in mind that many duck, owl, and kestrel nest boxes are interchangeable; that is, American Kestrels will use a Wood Duck nest box, for example.

Purple Martins also provide a very specialized colony style of cavity nesting, in the form of Purple Martin apartment houses and gourd housing. For an overview about all that you need to know about the specialized requirements of attracting nesting Purple Martins, we refer you to the pros, the Purple Martin Conservation Association at [Purple Martin Conservation Association](#)

As with any endeavor, adding a new birdhouse will require varying degrees of patience as you wait for nesting birds to claim it, especially in the case of the larger cavity nesting birds and Purple Martins, but it's all worth it when you succeed. Whether it takes a few weeks, or another year, by providing one or more new cavity nesting options for birds in your yard, you are contributing an important piece of the puzzle to expand the number of birdhouses that are creating a real conservation masterpiece provided by dedicated birders. Congratulations!

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

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

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

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Eastern Bluebird photo by Jessica Nelson

Great Backyard Bird Count 2023 — Early Results For Maryland

 **175**
Species observed

 **4871**
Complete checklists

 **23**
Counties

 **2385**
Hotspots

Top counties

Updated 40 min ago.

	SPECIES ▾	CHECKLISTS ▾
1 Worcester	129	448
2 Dorchester	126	126
3 Baltimore	112	636
4 Anne Arundel	108	419
5 Montgomery	107	913
6 Prince George's	103	311
7 Talbot	99	115
8 Calvert	95	131
9 Howard	92	485
10 Cecil	90	85
11 Queen Anne's	90	67
12 Frederick	86	281
13 Harford	86	97
14 Kent	80	70
15 St. Mary's	78	94
16 Caroline	77	44
17 Somerset	71	26
18 Wicomico	71	48
19 Charles	69	86
20 Washington	66	132
21 Carroll	64	161
22 Garrett	64	64
23 Allegany	50	32

The Cornell Lab 

 Audubon

 BIRDS CANADA
DISEAUX CANADA

Great Backyard Bird Count

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Announces Midwinter Waterfowl Survey 2023 Results

Annual Survey of Wintering Waterfowl Finds Increase in Diving Ducks

In early January, aerial survey teams of pilots and biologists from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) made visual estimates of the ducks, geese, and swans along most of the state’s Chesapeake Bay, Potomac River, and Atlantic coast shorelines. This year, the teams counted about 632,200 waterfowl, which was higher than the 563,800 birds observed in 2022 but lower than the most recent five-year average of 682,520 birds.

“The distribution and abundance of wintering waterfowl is influenced not only by the annual changes in population size, but also the weather conditions during migration and throughout the winter,” said Wildlife and Heritage Director Paul Peditto. “The surveys our staff conduct provide a snapshot of where waterfowl are located in the state and are combined with data from other states in the flyway to track the status of several important waterfowl species.”

Overall, dabbling ducks were similar (93,600) to 2022 (97,600). While the number of pintails counted in the survey dropped slightly (3,300 in 2023 and 4,600 in 2022), mallards (56,800) and black ducks (21,800) remained similar to their respective 5-year averages (53,920, and 24,580). Despite the generally mild winter, a mid-December cold snap across the country likely led to more diving ducks (190,300) being observed on the Chesapeake and tributaries than in the 2022 survey (79,400).

Biologists counted 320,800 Canada geese in the 2023 survey which was similar to the 361,100 counted in 2022. The 2023 count was likely negatively affected by the warm early January weather, which allowed many wintering geese to roost and feed further inland away from survey routes. Positive reports from many goose hunters appear to confirm this theory.

The Midwinter Waterfowl Survey has been conducted annually since the early 1960s – except 2021 – and covers most of the tidal shorelines and near-shore waterfowl habitat in Maryland. The 2021 Mid-Winter Survey was not flown due to human health concerns related to COVID-19.

Midwinter Waterfowl Survey Results 2018-2023* (figures rounded to the nearest hundred)

Species	2018	2019	2020	2022	2023
Mallard	64,300	39,000	56,000	53,500	56,800
American Black Duck	38,300	17,200	21,000	24,600	21,800
Gadwall	3,100	4,800	10,800	6,800	3,400
American Wigeon	700	1,200	1,100	300	1,900
Green-winged Teal	500	1,500	2,000	6,900	6,200
Northern Shoveler	0	100	300	900	200
Northern Pintail	1,100	600	1,800	4,600	3,300
Total Dabblers	108,000	64,400	93,000	97,600	93,600
Redhead	27,500	20,600	10,600	7,000	12,800
Canvasback	60,000	46,000	46,900	7,700	57,800
Scaup	45,300	72,100	59,000	29,500	74,000
Ring-necked Duck	300	1,100	3,000	2,100	6,200
Common Goldeneye	100	100	300	100	400
Bufflehead	29,500	13,200	11,400	10,600	16,800
Ruddy Duck	24,500	28,900	18,500	22,400	22,300

Continued on page 8, see **Survey**

Survey continued

	2018	2019	2020	2022	2023
Total Divers	187,200	182,000	149,700	79,400	190,300
Scoters	4,500	27,800	5,700	1,300	3,400
Long-tailed Duck	0	300	200	100	100
Mergansers	2,300	2,000	2,300	1,400	1,700
Total Ducks	302,000	276,500	250,900	179,800	289,100
Brant	400	900	900	200	400
Snow Goose	63,500	34,700	40,900	13,600	12,500
Canada Goose	641,000	250,200	327,200	361,100	320,800
Tundra Swan	16,400	4,000	7,100	7,400	7,300
Total Waterfowl	1,023,300	566,300	627,000	563,800	632,200

*Survey not conducted in 2021

Licenses, stamps, and permits may be purchased online by phone at 855-855-3906, at a Maryland DNR Service Center or at any one of the more than 250 Sport License Agents statewide.

Hunters with questions may contact the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service at 410-260-8540.

<https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2023/02/07/maryland-department-of-natural-resources-announces-midwinter-waterfowl-survey-2023-results/>

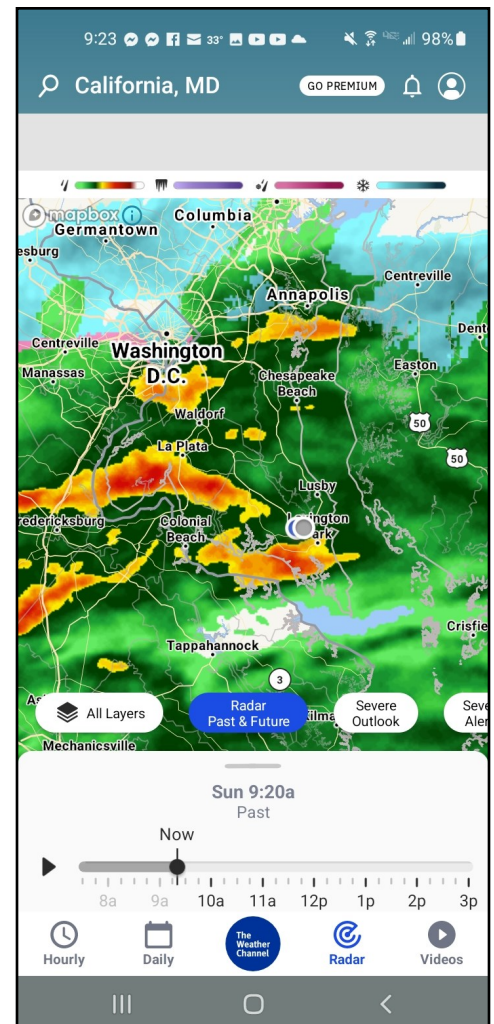
MD Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Ave., Annapolis, MD 21401
Call toll-free in *Maryland* at 1-877-620-8DNR (8367)
Out of State: 410-260-8DNR (8367)
[Maryland.gov](https://www.maryland.gov)

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, cancelled, AGAIN!!!

by Tyler Bell

My field trip to JPPM is cursed. That's all there is to it. The last time I was actually able to lead this trip was back in 2019. I've offered it yearly since the 1990s in January or February but the last few years, Mother Nature has frowned upon it. One year, we had a wind storm the night before that blew a tree down on our house. David Moulton, the outgoing SMAS field trip coordinator (thank you for your years of service!), stepped up to lead the trip in temps in the teens and twenties and howling wind. Covid shut down all SMAS field trips for two years. I'll throw in my Pt. Lookout trip that was cancelled due to a tropical storm (so maybe it's me?). And now this trip cancelled due to heavy rains. The trip had initially been scheduled for Saturday, February 12 but that was the day of a family Zoom meeting for my mother's 100th birthday so I had to reschedule for Sunday, February 13. Saturday was beautiful, Sunday was not.

So, I'll plan on running the trip in late winter 2024. Fingers crossed that Mother Nature lets us go out and play.



Call For Volunteers For Spring Bird Counts

Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS) has been instrumental in establishing several Important Bird Areas (IBA) in our region. In Calvert County the American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) is so designated. As a member of their science committee, I have been involved in the effort to monitor the migratory birds on the property during the spring. The pandemic and other issues interrupted this annual effort and in 2020 and 2022 we did not complete all of our IBA monitoring routes.

In an effort to revive this valuable data collection, I am asking for people to assist in running the routes. You need to be good at identifying bird song as well as being able to visually identify species. The study is looking at species of concern, especially Forest Interior Dwelling Species.

ACLT has a map with eight routes that cover a sampling of habitat in their IBA. There are eight points for each route and are run twice during the season. The first period starts on May 25th and the second on June 11th and ends June 30. The surveys need to be at least ten days apart and, of course, are weather dependent. Complete the point counts between 5:45 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. They can take as little as two hours; my average was two and a half.

We would prefer that the same person do both point counts for a specific route. Instructions, maps, and data collection sheets are all available upon request. I do not get out birding as frequently as I would like to. The land trust I work for, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, partners with a number of non-profits including SMAS and ACLT. I am able to do this field work during the week and have a half day under my belt before going to the office. It is what I call a win-win situation. It is also some of the best birding I do all year.

If you feel you have the skills and the time to help in this project, please contact me to get details. I would like to have our volunteers lined up before the end of April. My best contact is through email. Please use robertboxwell1@outlook.com. You can also call (410-231-1251) if you wish to get more information or ask questions that may not be answered in the directions and data sheets.

Citizen Science - Bird Watch

Saturday, March 18
9:30am - 11:00am

Lexington Park Library

Meeting Room B

Register here: <https://stmalib.libnet.info/event/7759154>

Learn the many ways you can help scientists all over the world while bird-watching!

“Citizen science enables people from all walks of life to advance scientific research. Libraries across the country are helping people take an active role in finding solutions to science-based issues by promoting citizen science projects, kits, and events.” – SciStarter

We will share different apps & websites that help you to identify birds and record your observations for various international research projects. Our group will focus on the Celebrate Urban Birds project. Molly Moore, President of The Southern Maryland Audubon Society will take us outside to practice what we learned about observing birds.

Unless it is pouring rain, we will go outside to practice what we learn. Please dress appropriately.

For more information about Citizen Science and Kits that will be available for checkout after the event series is over, please go to the library's Citizen Science event page.

Thank you to The Patuxent Partnership for supporting this series of events and the creation of kits for checkout!
St. Mary's County Library makes every effort to make events and programs accessible and inclusive. If you need special accommodations for any Library event or program, please submit our Accommodations Request form as soon as possible.

AGE GROUP: | [Upper Elementary](#) | [Tween](#) | [Teen](#) | [Adult](#) |
EVENT TYPE: | [STEAM](#) | [Special Event](#) | [Lifelong Learning](#) |

Planting Seeds Of Enthusiasm For Natives

by Molly Moore

Public enthusiasm for learning more about growing native plants for birds, pollinators and beauty is expanding exponentially. Southern Maryland Audubon had full houses at each of our four workshops this winter on growing native plants from seeds in milk jugs. Our most recent Native Plants for Birds winter sowing workshops co-hosted with Charles County Master Gardeners and the Neighborhood Creative Arts Center in LaPlata drew diverse audiences of all ages.

Within a few weeks, hundreds if not thousands of native plant seedlings ranging from orange coneflowers to common milkweed, will be sprouting in the jugs planted by the nearly 100 participants and volunteers in the workshops. Some of our participants said they want to use the seedlings to replace ornamental plants in their yards. Others will replace sections of their grass lawns with native plants. And others with small patios or balconies said they hoped to offer pots of natives for food and shelter for birds and beneficial insects. All these actions will contribute to making Southern Maryland a more bird-friendly habitat in the face of continuing residential and commercial development.

If you'd like to learn more about the importance of native plants, please check out the recording of our most recent monthly lecture: "The Amazing Bird Insect Food Web" at www.somdaudubon.org/our-work/program-archive/

If you want help in deciding what kind of natives to plant in your yard, containers, or street curb "hell strip," visit www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds for a wide selection of the best natives to grow in your zip code.

(Photos by Marlene Smith and Molly Moore)



SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023

Please see below for details.

We are grateful for your continued support. It is with the highest degree of enthusiasm that we invite you to become part of the 2023 Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival ("MONF"). Those involved as an attendee, volunteer, vendor, or sponsor, will agree that last year's inaugural Festival was a tremendous success.

Here is a fun video that captured last year's event: <https://videopress.com/embed/TMSEXeb2>

EDUCATION.CONSERVATION.CELEBRATION. were in full display and will continue to be the pillars of our Festival, and the reason for our foundation.

The success of MONF is dependent on YOUR involvement! Please come out and support us. Donate generously or what you can. Our goal is for you to become a fan!



EDUCATION CONSERVATION CELEBRATION



Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023
Time: 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Place: Drum Point Club: Lusby, MD
Parking: ALL PARKING
PATUXENT HIGH SCHOOL
(except handicap parking)
Courtesy Shuttle Provided
Admission: \$10 adult, \$15 Family



Free Rita'S Ice

Join us at the beautiful Drum Point Club for fun and learning for the entire family. Live raptors, food truck, speaker series, live music, exhibits, and much more.

Proceeds go to non-profits who have a vested interest in protecting and conserving our wildlife areas in Maryland such as: Owl Moon Raptor Center, Phoenix Wildlife Center, and Calvert Nature Society. \$3,000 donated in 2022.

DRUM POINT RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO WALK, RIDE YOUR BIKE, ETC, TO AND FROM THE FESTIVAL.

PETS STRICTLY PROHIBITED - ONLY SERVICE ANIMALS

Vendor opportunities still available

Tax deductible DONATIONS may be made on website

Please visit our website for details. You may also email
marylandospreyfestival@gmail.com or call 443-624-5590

www.marylandospreyfestival.org

New Members Update!

Starting with the next issue of *The Osprey*, we will welcome new members in the month after they join us. We're glad you've joined us and don't want to miss recognizing a single new member!

Follow us on Facebook @somdaudubon



Please follow us on Instagram @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!

Visit us at www.somdaudubon.org

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? Did you travel over the holiday break? Go on a birding/nature outing that you recently enjoyed? We're always looking for member contributed content!

February — April 2023 Events continued

March 25 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

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: Ben Springer

Do you want to learn about birds? Or want to meet other kids that love birds? If so, this is your trip! Join Southern Maryland Youth Birders at a great location. Newtowne Neck is a 776-acre park of shoreline, woodlands, wetlands, and agricultural fields—a wide variety of birding habitats. On this trip last year, young birders found 52 species, including Yellow-throated Warblers! DIRECTIONS: From Rte. 5 north of Leonardtown, turn on Rte. 243 (Newtowne Neck Road), continue for 4.5 miles to parking lot on left just beyond the graveyard and before St. Francis Xavier's Church. RSVP required to Ben at 443-771-6636 (text preferred) or ben.springer@comcast.net.

April 1 – 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: Ben Springer

Join us at Southern Maryland's premier birding hotspot as early migrants funnel north across 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 Ben at 443-771-6636 (text preferred) or ben.springer@comcast.net

April 5 – WEDNESDAY – 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Monthly Meeting Program – Virtual Zoom Meeting

“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 graduate 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 22- SATURDAY - 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

FIELD TRIP - EARTH DAY BIRDS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WALK

Cobb Island, Charles County

13201 Main Avenue, Cobb Island, MD 20625

“BIRDS OF COBB ISLAND”

Leader: Molly Moore

What better way to celebrate Earth Day than learning the birds that frequent one of the most unique communities in Southern Maryland. This walk is family friendly and open to first time birders and experienced birders of all ages from Cobb Island and beyond. We will walk through the wooded neighborhoods of the island, spotting songbirds migrating through the area as well as those settling in for nest-building. We'll explore the waterfront and wetlands edges for shore birds, Osprey, and Bald Eagles. This will be an easy walk along quiet paved streets and paths. DIRECTIONS: Meet in the parking lot of the Cobb Island Civic Association, white building at Main Ave and Rte. 254, one block from the bridge, across the street from the Cobb Island Volunteer Fire EMS Services. RSVP to Molly Moore at president.somdaudubon@gmail.com

April 23 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP – EARTH DAY!

Historic Sotterley, St. Mary's County

44300 Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, MD 20636

“WHAT’S SOARING AT SOTTERLEY”

Leader(s): David Moulton

Celebrate Earth Day weekend with a bird walk at this scenic and historic Patuxent River property as the annual surge of bird migration begins.

Nesting Bald Eagles, migrating warblers, meadowlarks, woodpeckers and waterfowl can all be found on Sotterley’s farm roads and trails.

DIRECTIONS: From Rt. 235 go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through the gates into Sotterley, proceed to the gravel parking lot. 15-person maximum; Covid rules apply. RSVP at 240-278-4473 or

moulton.davidh@gmail.com



Eastern Meadowlark
Photo by Bill Hubick

April 29 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP

FIELD TRIP - Accokeek Marsh and Piscataway Park, Prince George's County

2832 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek

“MARSHLAND AND TRAILS OF ACCOKEEK”

Leader: Marisa Rositol

Spend a spring morning in Piscataway Park along the Potomac River. We will begin on the Accokeek Creek Marsh Boardwalk, which traverses marshland and offers spectacular views of the river and the Virginia shoreline, including George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate. Ducks, marsh birds and raptors all possible. Boardwalk continues to fields and woods where we will search for migrants and nesting land birds. Time permitting, we will explore other nearby trails of Piscataway Park for upland species. **DIRECTIONS:** Meet at Marsh Boardwalk parking lot: From Rt 210 in Accokeek, turn east on Livingston Road. Turn right on Biddle Rd and left on Bryan Point Road. In about 3 miles, take right on entrance road to the Boardwalk lot. RSVP to Marisa at 301-672-7664 or MKRositol@yahoo.com.

April 30 - 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 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 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. Register online, below, or on our website.



Prothonotary Warbler
Photo by Steve Arthur

<https://www.calvertparks.org/event-5139372>

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

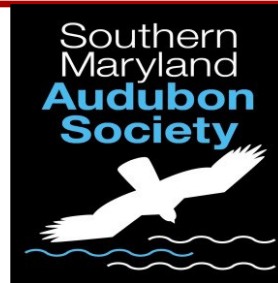
Photo by Bill Hubick

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.

2022—2023 Officers

President, Molly Moore - president.somdaudubon@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