

# The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

## President's Perch



Eastern Bluebirds  
Photo by Michael Thomas

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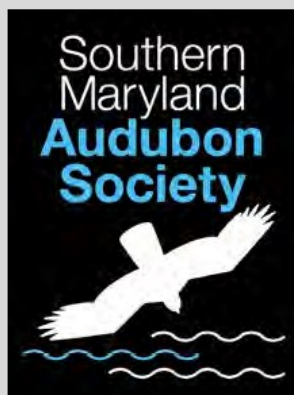
**Field Trip — Historic  
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**Special Expose: Birding Texas**



<http://somdaudubon.org/>

Dear Friends,

Mark your calendars! Sunday, June 4, our annual Southern Maryland Audubon Society Membership Meeting and Picnic will be at gorgeous Historic Sotterley overlooking the Patuxent River in St. Mary's County.

Good food. Fun fellowship. Help us choose a new logo. Meet our Conservationist of the Year. Buy native plants. Go on a spectacular bird walk. And more. Y'all come! Details below.

Most of our Southern Maryland Audubon bird walks take participants through remote woods, marshes and fields at far-flung sanctuaries and state parks. For Earth Day this year, we tried a new path—a Neighborhood Bird Walk geared to teaching new birders to identify birds they see in their own backyards.

Our inaugural neighborhood walk was on Cobb Island at the very southern end of Charles County. I'll confess, I didn't know if anyone would sign up. Birding on streets in a developed community? Really?

It was a hit! Eighteen people signed up. Most were new birders. It was a bigger group that we normally take on walks, but I didn't have the heart to turn anyone down. We were a diverse group of all ages, from all walks of life—all with a common interest in learning how to tell a Common Grackle from a European Starling. One couple had just moved to Cobb Island three days earlier and was eager to meet its birds.

With a group this large we expanded to three leaders—myself, avid birder Annette Cook and my husband, John Anderson. Our stats: 23 species, 1.3 miles, 89 minutes.

The joy of this walk came not in the number of birds, but in the excitement of new birders marveling over the brilliant rose-pink of a male House Finch or the awe in watching a Common Grackle's head turn an iridescent blue-purple in the sunlight.

As we ambled through the narrow streets of the island, binoculars in hand, local residents called out greetings from their front porches, or paused in their gardens to ask a bird question. It added an entirely new element to a bird walk to be able to share the fun and knowledge with onlookers as well as participants!

*The Osprey* is taking its usual summer vacation. **This will be our last edition until September.** But you can keep up with our summer activities, bird photos and tips on birds and birding on Facebook @somdaudubon and Instagram @southernmarylandaudubon.

Happy summer and happy birding,  
Molly Moore  
President, Southern Maryland Audubon

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## 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 4 at the annual picnic. This is a notice to all members. If you would like to submit a nomination for a position of Vice-President or Director on our board, please submit your nomination via email to our nominating committee chair Elena Gilroy:

[elenabode@yahoo.com](mailto:elenabode@yahoo.com)

**June 4 – SUNDAY - 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Annual Meeting and Picnic**

**Historic Sotterley, St. Mary's County**

44300 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636

1:00 – 2:15

Potluck Lunch

2:15 – 3:00

Welcome, Award Presentations and Elections

3:00 – 4:00

Bird Walk

We are very excited to be able to have our annual meeting at this beautiful historic St. Mary's County location. The meeting will be located at the open-air Riverside Pavilion. Secluded and located on a bluff overlooking Sotterley Creek and the Patuxent River, the Pavilion is surrounded by majestic trees and water views. This will be one of our loveliest meeting venues and best bird walk due to the habitat and nature trails this location provides. **We will also have native plants for sale!** Directions: From MD Rt. 235 go north onto MD-245, Sotterley Road. Turn right onto Sotterley Lane. Follow signs to the Riverside Pavilion, parking is available.

## Port Tobacco River Park Bluebird Trail

by Shelly Posey

Most people know about Hope and Chandler, Port Tobacco River Park's Eagle superstars, but there are other celebrities in the park as well, Eastern Bluebirds!

Port Tobacco River Park has a 2-mile Bluebird Trail helping the once-threatened Eastern Bluebird population. Six nesting boxes stationed in various meadows throughout the park provide nesting cavities for bluebirds.

Recent upgrades have happened, thanks to volunteers, including replacing fragile nest boxes with new ones and adding improved predator guards.

Volunteers check the nest boxes weekly, recording data and making necessary adjustments. As of 4/22/23 we have 12 nestlings and 11 eggs.

Interesting facts about the Eastern Bluebird, a symbol of hope and joy:

- Bluebird pairs mate for life.
- Females oversee nest building.
- Bluebirds lay 4-7 eggs which are pale blue, sometimes white, and have 2-3 broods each year.
- Incubation of the eggs is 12-14 days, 17-21 days after hatching the young will leave the nest.
- Both parents feed the nestlings and sometimes have help from older siblings.
- Bluebirds can spot insects in tall grass over fifty yards.

Please do not approach or open a nest box on a Bluebird Trail. Enjoy seeing the comings and goings of bluebirds at a distance and allow them to enjoy a peaceful home while building their nests and rearing their young.

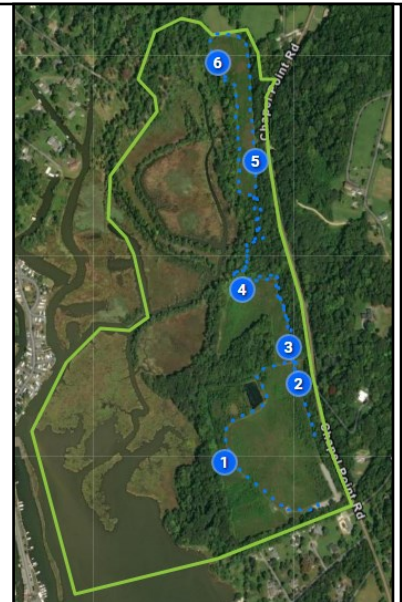
If you would like to help monitor at Port Tobacco River Park, or want access to "view" the data from the Trail, please contact [ptriverpark@gmail.com](mailto:ptriverpark@gmail.com). We will arrange training and sign up for monitoring days.



Photo by Shelly Posey

To learn more and hear bluebird calls visit [Eastern Bluebird - eBird](#) To learn how to set up a nest box and monitor in your yard, visit [www.sialis.org](http://www.sialis.org)

Monitoring the Bluebird trail is a joint effort of the Port Tobacco River Conservancy and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society. Special thanks to the Conservancy of Charles County for mapping the trail and Mary Hollinger and Lydia Wells of Calvert County Department of Parks and Recreation aiding our development of the bluebird monitoring data form. Thanks also to Charles County Parks & Grounds who keep the entire park a beautiful place to enjoy nature.



Map created by John Posey



Photo by Shelly Posey



Trail Monitor Rebecca Turner  
Photo by Shelly Posey

## Field Trip Report - Historic Sotterley

On Sunday, April 23, in commemoration of Earth Day, eight of us gathered at Historic Sotterley for a bird walk on this beautiful property. The sun was out, the temperature was comfortable, and we were rewarded with 48 species seen, heard or both. The highlight of this trip always includes the Bald Eagle nest, which can be viewed from the property's "eagle platform". With the scope, everyone got great looks at the single eaglet, sticking its head up out of the massive nest. A pair of Brown Thrashers played in the grass close to us, a Grasshopper Sparrow popped out of the pasture grass to sing like an insect, and the Eastern Meadowlarks chattered and landed on a fencepost to display their neon yellow breastplates. Warblers were still scarce, but a Louisiana Waterthrush sang repeatedly from a wooded ravine, and a male Orchard Oriole entertained us from the top of a cedar.

Good Birding indeed!  
David Moulton

SMAS/Sotterley Earth Day field trip  
Historic Sotterley, St. Mary's, Maryland, US  
Apr 23, 2023 8:02 AM - 11:11 AM  
8 participants  
48 species

Mallard 3  
Mourning Dove 3  
Killdeer 3  
Ring-billed Gull 1  
Royal Tern  
Double-crested Cormorant 1  
Great Blue Heron 1  
Black Vulture 2  
Turkey Vulture 3  
Osprey 2  
Bald Eagle  
Red-shouldered Hawk 1  
Red-tailed Hawk 2  
Belted Kingfisher 1  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 3  
Downy Woodpecker 1  
Northern Flicker 1  
Eastern Phoebe 1  
Red-eyed Vireo 1  
Blue Jay 4



Bald Eaglet in nest, Sotterley, April 24, 2022  
Photo by Steve Arthur

American Crow 4  
Carolina Chickadee 1  
Tufted Titmouse 3  
Tree Swallow 2  
Barn Swallow 7  
White-breasted Nuthatch 1  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 3  
Carolina Wren 4  
European Starling 2  
Brown Thrasher 3  
Northern Mockingbird 2  
Eastern Bluebird 5  
American Robin 3  
House Sparrow 5  
House Finch 1  
American Goldfinch 2  
Grasshopper Sparrow 5  
Chipping Sparrow 3  
White-throated Sparrow 1  
Savannah Sparrow 7  
Song Sparrow 2  
Eastern Meadowlark 6  
Orchard Oriole 1  
Brown-headed Cowbird 3  
Common Grackle 2  
Louisiana Waterthrush 1  
Northern Parula 1  
Northern Cardinal 4

View this checklist online at:  
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S135013592>

## A Nesting Shelf for Robins, Doves, & More

Not every bird nests in a birdhouse or nest box; actually, just a small percentage of birds are specialized cavity nesting birds, but some birds will build their nest on the edge or corner of buildings where they can fit a nest that offers a degree of protection and stability. The most obvious among these birds are robins, doves, phoebes, and House Finches. To attract these species, or to redirect them to a certain location, some years ago a creative birder tried building a simple shelf that proved successful, and over the years the design has been improved.

Today, a nesting shelf tends to be something of an open-ended box, but the best ones tend to be a little more open, with partly open sides so the birds can see more of the surrounding area. They have a slanted roof with a bit of an overhang, a drain hole drilled in each corner of the floor, and many nesting shelves have a low “curb” on the front. You can install the nesting shelf on the side of a building or under an eave, especially in a position where you have a good view of it. But you can also install it on the top of a post that has a predator guard below the shelf – just as you would with a nest box. Providing a safe place to nest is even more important than providing a nest shelf in the first place.

### Dual Purposes

Providing a nesting shelf is definitely a plus for the birds that will use it, which includes some of our favorite birds in the form of American Robins, Mourning Doves, House Finches, and insect-eating Eastern Phoebes. Providing a nesting shelf adds a level of improved chances of nesting success for the birds that use them – one small effort by birders that adds up to another level of a conservation effort on behalf of our native migrants.

You can also use a nesting shelf to re-direct some birds to a location where you would prefer them to locate their nest. For example, Barn Swallows can leave a mess as they build their mud-packed nest, on the side of a building or under the eave of a porch or deck; below the nest, unsightly mud splashes and feces will accumulate. However, by positioning a nesting shelf in a convenient location where you can enjoy the nesting activities of the birds, hopefully the birds will re-direct their nesting activities to a shelf at a location of your choice.

By the way, if you do wish to attract Barn Swallows, a beneficial species that eats an abundance of flying insects during their nesting cycle, they need a source of mud nearby, which is an integral material for them to build their nest. Actually, robins and phoebes use mud to concrete their nesting materials together too, but usually spring rains provide ample mud. But, to facilitate their need for mud, if there isn't a rainwater puddle nearby, you can make a mud puddle by pouring a couple gallons of water on exposed dirt in an open area, or add water periodically with a garden hose.

One other biological point is that species that use nesting shelves tend to re-nest after their first nesting attempt, hopefully after the nestlings have fledged successfully. That's when you should remove the previous nest to make the nesting shelf available for



Nesting shelf for robins and phoebes

their second or even third nesting cycle. For species that build nests, nest building is an important part of the behavioral and physiological cycles that preclude egg development, but only rarely will the birds build on top of or beside a previous nest. So don't hesitate to remove the nest after nestlings have fledged, and you may get to experience another nesting cycle, possibly by the same adult pair.

### DIY or Buy

You can build your own nesting shelf, or buy one ready-made. If you are a do-it-yourselfer, you can get Free plans to build a nesting shelf for robins, phoebes, or Barn Swallows at [NestWatch | All About Birdhouses - NestWatch](#) (scroll down the webpage to the list of birds). Making a nesting shelf is really very easy, and it's something you can do with children or on your own. If you're not a backyard builder, it's even easier to buy a nesting shelf, and the best one we've seen is available from Duncraft, which has really increased the variety and quality of birdhouses and other nesting structures they are offering this year; see [Duncraft.com: Duncraft 3017 Best Nesting Shelf](#)

Finally, when we attract birds to our yards, we need to be especially careful not to use pesticides and fertilizers that may affect the birds we wish to benefit, or the insects and earthworms the birds eat and feed their nestlings. Environmental health is all interconnected, and by making areas better for birds, we simultaneously make them better for our yards and our families. Best wishes as we enter this spring's nesting season; let's all make it a season to remember!

Share your backyard birding experiences and photos with The Birding Wire at [editorstbw2@gmail.com](mailto:editorstbw2@gmail.com)

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

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## Welcome, New Members!

Carl Franzen, Lexington Park

Charlene Haynes, Waldorf

Tamara Horsemen, Prince Frederick

Gary Jackson, Clinton

Emogene Lawson, Clinton

Timothy Matthews, Leonardtown

Nancy R Matus, Leonardtown

Vincent Morelli, Hollywood

Debra Pence, Bushwood

Bennie Peterson, Leonardtown

Molly Pinkas, La Plata

Alfredia L Spence, Fort Washington

Joan Springer, Valley Lee

Colleen Tehansky, Mechanicsville

Anna C Weight, Chesapeake Beach

Leanora Winters, Owings

Albert Ybarra, Chesapeake Beach

Follow us on Facebook @somdaudubon



**Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS)**

@somdaudubon · ★ 5 4 reviews · Nonprofit organization

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](http://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. We're going into our summer break so the next issue will be in September. Maybe you're travelling? Perhaps you have some photos that you'd like to share? Go on a birding/nature outing that you recently enjoyed? We're always looking for member contributed content!

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## May — June 2023 Events

**May 6 – SATURDAY – 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (early start!)**

### FIELD TRIP

**American Chestnut Land Trust, Calvert County**

676 Double Oak Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

### “WARBLERS AND SPRING MIGRATION ON THE HOLLY HILL TRAIL”

Leader: Sherman Suter

Join us for one of our dazzling nature gems in Calvert County. The American Chestnut Land Trust has 22 miles of natural trails, including the recently established Holly Hill Trail. Explore this spectacular property in search of warblers and other neotropical songbirds. Bird migration will be strong, as well as the singing of the local breeding birds establishing nesting territories. Trails are well-maintained but rough in spots, so wear appropriate footwear. Meet at the parking lot just beyond the Land Trust Office. DIRECTIONS: From Route 4 in Prince Frederick, turn east onto Dares Beach Road/MD 402. Continue 2.4 miles to right turn at Double Oak Road. Continue 1.5 miles to a signed gate and a dirt road on the left. Take the dirt road to the left and continue to parking lot between office and barn. RSVP to Sherman at 410-586-1073 or [ShermanSuter@gmail.com](mailto:ShermanSuter@gmail.com)

**SATURDAY, May 13 OR SUNDAY, May 14 (rain date)– All Day**

### COUNTY MAY COUNTS

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

Maryland birders have conducted this survey of the bird populations in the state in the first half of May for over five decades. By the second week in May, many of the species that nest in Maryland have returned to their breeding grounds and they are temporarily joined by an array of warblers, vireos, and other migrating species whose numbers peak in the state around this time.

The Southern Maryland Audubon Society area includes a lot of ground! If you are interested in spending some time counting the birds you see and hear in a specific area, that would be great! Help is always appreciated from all: backyard birders (counting what comes to your feeders or in your own yard), beginners, new members. This is a great way to learn! Data and information help save our birds.

To be assigned an area or just to find out how to report what you see in your own yard, reach out to the county coordinators in your area:

CALVERT: Sherman Suter (401-586-1073), [sjsuter29@verizon.net](mailto:sjsuter29@verizon.net)

CHARLES: Lynne Wheeler (301-751-8097), [somdaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:somdaudubon@yahoo.com)

PRINCE GEORGE'S: Kevin Bennett, [kevinfpbennett@gmail.com](mailto:kevinfpbennett@gmail.com)

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

**May 21 - SUNDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. *New Date, Rescheduled due to weather.***

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

**June 4 – SUNDAY - 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Annual Meeting and Picnic**

**See Page 2.**

## South Texas & Rio Grande Valley Birding Trip - 2023

by Steve & Betty Arthur

Whether a novice or more experienced birder, if you haven't yet had the opportunity to see the birds of South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, start planning **NOW!** You won't regret it! We started our trip planning 3 years ago, but we were completely stymied by the COVID pandemic until last fall. With the waning of COVID infections, our plans came together and in February of this year, we drove to South Texas for our long delayed birding adventure.

After two weeks of non-stop birding, we added **57 new birds to our "life list," ending up with our new total of 333.** Of course, 333 is a paltry number to many of those who've been birding for years, but it sure made us happy.

Our first stop in Texas was Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), specifically to see the rarest of all, the **Whooping Crane**. Although our boat trip was canceled due to high winds, we were offered the opportunity to see them feeding as we observed them from a blind. We were treated with spectacular views of these amazing birds as well as some of the Sandhill Cranes which accompanied them to the feeding site. The photo below of the juvenile Whooping Crane is perhaps our favorite of the trip - it was obviously having a lot of fun bouncing around, up and down, with the two adults observing nearby.



Whooping Cranes - adults  
Near Goose Island State Park, TX



Juvenile Whooping Crane  
Near Goose Island State Park, TX

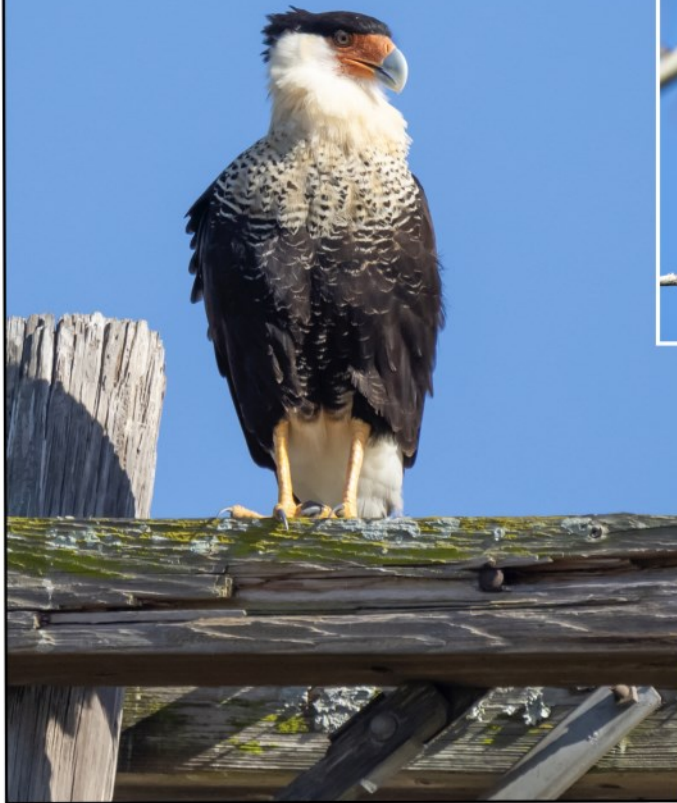


Sandhill Crane  
Near Goose Island State Park, TX

After being treated with such amazing views of these cranes, we traveled northwest of Corpus Christi to the Hazel Bazemore Park for the afternoon. When we arrived, the temperature had climbed to 85° and it was "buggy." Being the middle of the day, we weren't expecting to see much. However, those expectations changed dramatically

when I spotted this magnificent bird sitting on top a power pole in the middle of a big wide-open field of the park. It was the **Crested Caracara**, also known as the “Mexican Bald Eagle.” The rest of the afternoon was also rewarding, as we added three new doves to our list: **White-winged, White-tipped and Inca Doves**.

**Crested Caracara**  
Hazel Bazemore Park  
Corpus Christi, TX



**White-winged Dove**  
Hazel Bazemore Park



The next morning, we visited the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding & Nature Center, at Port Aransas, TX, on Mustang Island. Great views of **Green Jays**, Long-billed Dowitchers, and the **Great Kiskadee** along with many others. Traveling further down Mustang Island, we stopped occasionally to check the mud flats around the water. That's when we spotted a **Long-billed Curlew** walking the shoreline.

**Long-billed Curlew**  
Mustang Island

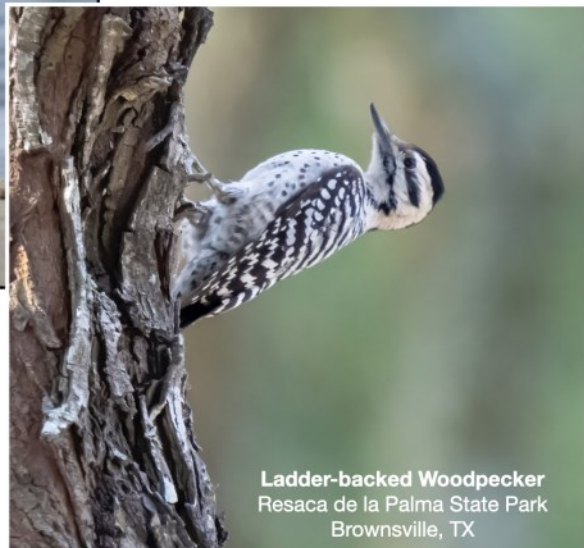


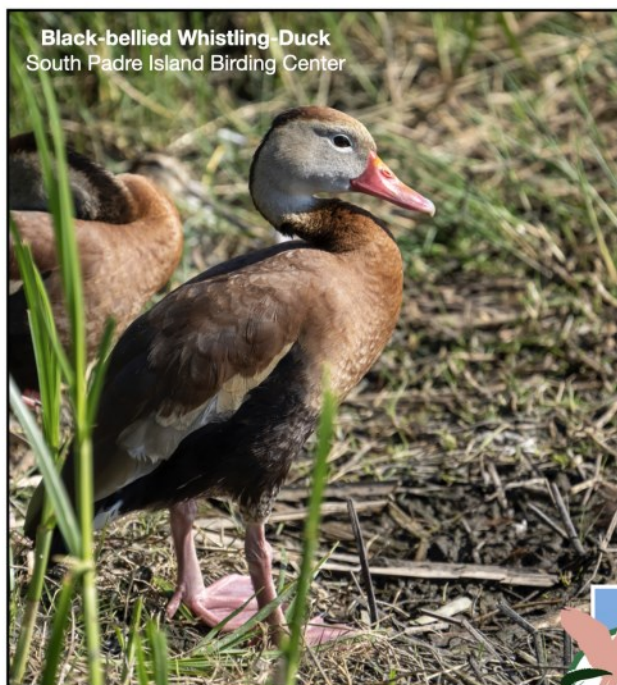
**Green Jay**  
Salineño, TX



The next day, we visited the Resaca de la Palma State Park, near Brownsville, TX. It was chilly (mid 40°s) and very windy. The park ranger, Jacob, told us to just hang around the visitor's center for the best birding... and he was right! We were there for about 2 ½ hours - got THREE new birds - **Altamira Oriole**, **Clay-colored Thrush** and **Ladder-backed Woodpecker**. Saw many other birds as well.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker**  
Resaca de la Palma State Park  
Brownsville, TX





**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**  
South Padre Island Birding Center

On Saturday, February 18th, we headed to South Padre Island - about an hour drive from Harlingen. We were lucky to be able to slide right into an 8:30 bird tour group, led by Rosanne, a local volunteer. We walked the boardwalks and listened to Rosanne as she pointed out birds. We immediately saw a Great Kiskadee, Great-tailed Grackles... then, got our **300th** "life" bird, the **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** (on left).

There were birds everywhere! Black-necked Stilts walking the mud flats and lots of Great Blue, Green and Tricolored Herons. Then, way out maybe 200 yds away... Roseate Spoonbills, Redheads, Ring-billed and Laughing Gulls. There were American Coots walking in and out of the marsh grasses and Mottled Ducks tucked in along the waterways. We were treated to great views of the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons and then, just as the tour was ending, we spotted this stunning **Tropical Kingbird** sitting on a branch.

On Sunday, February 19th, we traveled south to the Brownsville area once again and visited the Sabal Palm Sanctuary. The highlight of that visit was seeing the beautiful **Gray Hawk**.



**Tropical Kingbird**  
South Padre Island Birding Center



**Gray Hawk**  
Sabal Palm Sanctuary - Brownsville, TX

For the next 5 days, we stayed in McAllen, TX, as our home base. We were lucky to have a superb birding guide for the week, recommended by Tyler Bell. **Tiffany Kersten completed a "lower 48" Big Year in 2021 and broke the record with 727 birds.** She has her own company, Nature Ninja Birding Tours, based in Mission, TX. With her guidance, we concentrated on the areas from around Mission and northwest up to Falcon State Park. It was a fantastic week.

Because of limited space, the following pages will be images only, highlighting many of the amazing new birds we discovered during our week with Tiffany. With her help, we added **31** new species to our "life list." All in all, our South Texas/Rio Grande Valley adventure was a trip to remember. Although it was a long drive (*4 days each way*), we are extremely happy with our choice to drive and would do it again... just not anytime soon!



**Atlamira Oriole**  
Bentsen Rio Grande  
Valley SP - Mission, TX



**Green Kingfisher**  
Bentsen Rio Grande Valley SP - Mission, TX



**Harris Hawk**  
Bentsen Rio Grande Valley SP



**Scaled Quail**  
Rancho Lomitas, Rio Grande City, TX



**Cactus Wren**, Mission, TX,  
Pen & Ink sketch by Betty Arthur



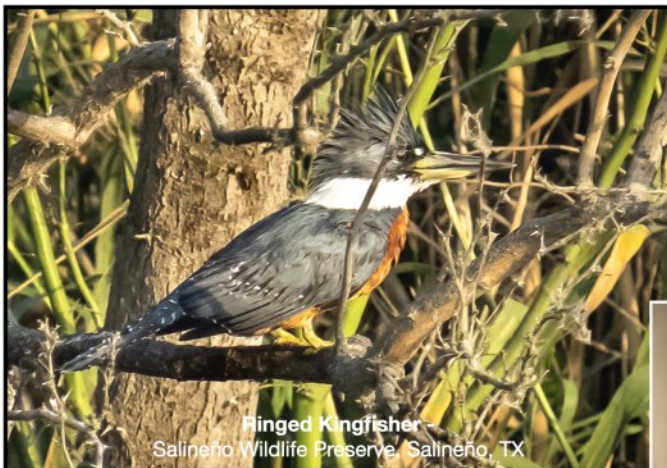
**Black-crested Titmouse**  
Quinta Mazatlan, McAllen, TX



**Inca Dove**  
National Butterfly Center - Mission, TX



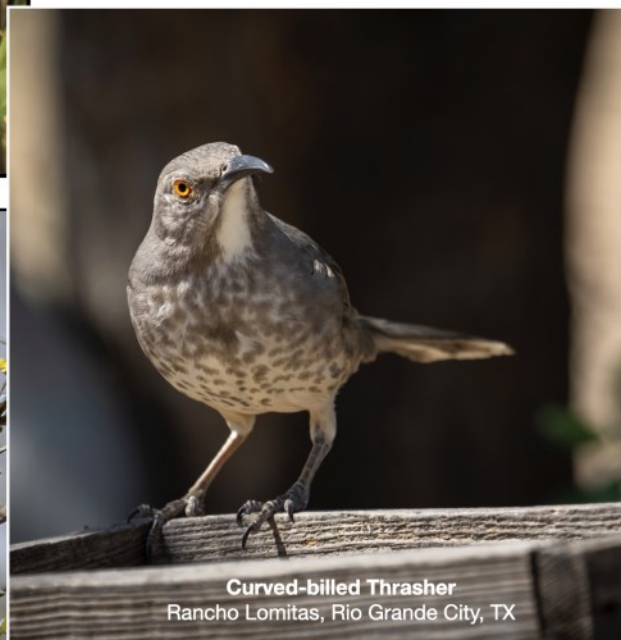
**Pyrrhuloxia**  
Falcon State Park  
Falcon Heights, TX



**Ringed Kingfisher**  
Salineño Wildlife Preserve, Salineño, TX



**Black-throated Sparrow**  
Falcon State Park, Falcon Heights, TX



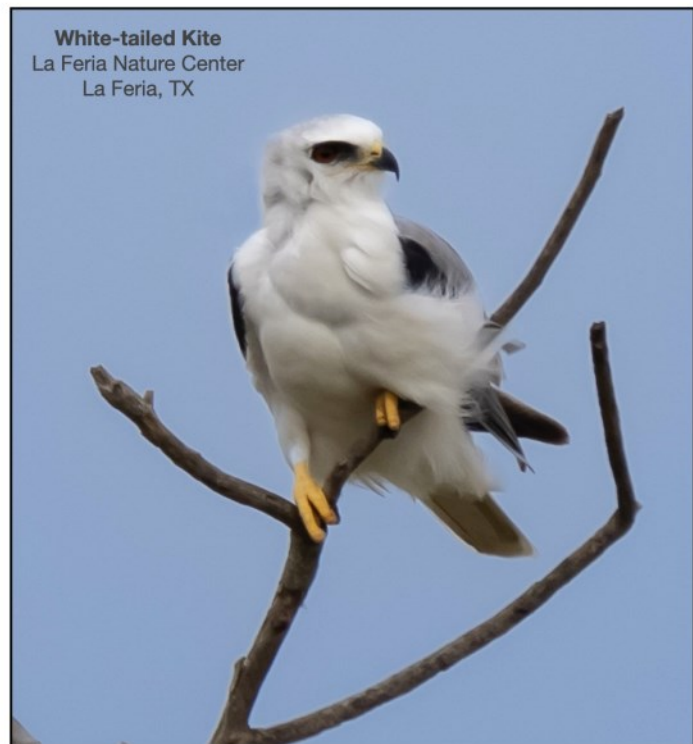
**Curved-billed Thrasher**  
Rancho Lomitas, Rio Grande City, TX



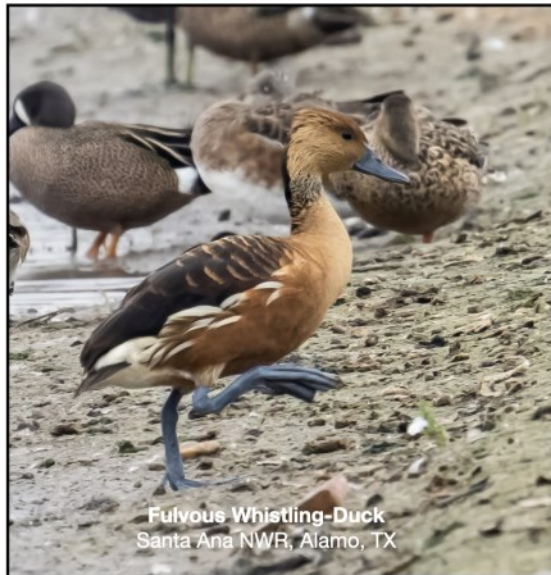
**Loggerhead Shrike**  
 Progresso Sod Farms  
 Hidalgo Co., TX



**Green Parakeets**  
 H-E-B Grocery Parking lot  
 McAllen, TX



**White-tailed Kite**  
 La Feria Nature Center  
 La Feria, TX



**Fulvous Whistling-Duck**  
 Santa Ana NWR, Alamo, TX



**Vermilion Flycatcher**  
 La Feria Nature Center

Thanks for taking a look! It was a superb adventure and we'd highly recommend it to anyone. Of course, we're now thinking about another trip for next year - maybe SE Arizona?!

## 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 [smdaudubon.org](http://smdaudubon.org) for this new option.



**Osprey**

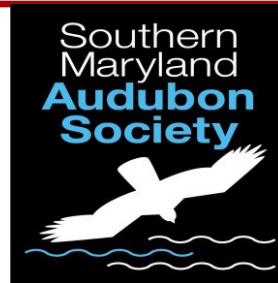
Photo by Bill Hubick

Editor: Tyler Bell Email: [jtylerbell@yahoo.com](mailto: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.smdaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:president.smdaudubon@gmail.com)  
Vice President, Elena Gilroy—[elenabode@yahoo.com](mailto:elenabode@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer, Julie Daniel—[juliedaniel@hotmail.com](mailto:juliedaniel@hotmail.com)  
Secretary, Barbara Hill —[tytito@verizon.net](mailto: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