

The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

President's Perch



Northern Cardinal
Photo by Anthony Louviere

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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

On just one recent night, an estimated 2,774,700 birds flew over Southern Maryland on their fall migration south. And the numbers are projected to increase over the next few weeks, according to BirdCast.info, an extraordinary tool that tracks bird migration.

What can you do to help many of these vulnerable travelers?

Turn your yard, garden or patio into a safe rest stop for migrants by leaving your plant seed heads and dried stems standing. They offer food and shelter for travelers.

Provide fresh water for drinking and cleaning feathers. It can be as simple as a big saucer of water; make sure it's shallow enough for small birds to stand in.

[Keep your cats indoors](#). It's safer for birds and for your pet.

Turn off or dim all unnecessary outdoor lights. The proliferation of bright yard, street and building lights is disorienting to migrating birds.

To help you appreciate—and spot—the huge variety of migrants passing through our region, the Southern Maryland Audubon Society is offering some great bird walks and talks in the coming weeks. Scroll down a bit further to see our full list and how you can register.

Our September nature journaling workshop was such a hit, we're hosting another on Sunday, October 22 at White Plains Regional Park in Charles County. With Kaelyn Stewart—our teen scholarship winner this summer to Hog Island Audubon Camp—as our guide, you don't have to be an artist to learn how to observe nature on a more intimate level. Email me at president.somdaudubon@gmail.com if you'd like to attend. We provide the sketchbook and pen!

There's no better time in Southern Maryland to get out and enjoy nature than our coming cool, brilliant days of autumn.

Happy birding!
Molly Moore

One Good Tern

by Molly Moore

Ben Springer has reported hundreds of banded terns and gulls to the U.S. Geological Survey.

But, he wasn't prepared for the notice he received on a Royal Tern he spotted at Point Patience at the Solomons Navy Recreation Center this past July.

"I just got a band return for one of the Royal Terns I reported this summer and he's 30 years old, banded in 1993!" Springer texted me when he received notification from the USGS. "That's only six months younger than the oldest ever known."

Springer's Royal Tern Number 174-29837 169 was banded as a nestling in 1993 before it could even fly, according to the certificate USGS sent Springer. It was banded July 9, 1993 at Rhodes Point in Accomack County, VA. That's about 34 miles, as the tern flies, from where Springer photographed it this July 12.

Springer, who is vice president of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society and is a senior at St. Mary's College of Maryland, surveys for banded terns as part of an internship he's had for three years at Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

"This one was in a flock with some other terns and gulls," said Springer. "There was a flock on the point most days and I would go out to get band numbers. Most of the time new birds would be there each day I went out."



Royal Terns stand out with their brilliant tangerine orange bill and racy black crest against a snowy white head.

Springer tucked his camera under his t-shirt and straddled a paddle board with a kayak paddle to get close enough to the birds to photograph the small silver bands on their legs. His 30-year-old tern was one of 21 Royal Terns he identified that day.

Springer estimated he has reported about 120 banded Royal Terns and 130 Common Terns this year. But, in the bird world, No. 174-29837 169 stands out as true royalty.

(Photo by Ben Springer)



	CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION AWARDED TO	
BENJAMIN SPRINGER		
Banding Data		
Band Number	1704-29837 169	Banded 07/09/1993
Species	ROYAL TERN	Sex UNKNOWN
Age of Bird	WAS TOO YOUNG TO FLY WHEN Banded IN 1993	
Location	RHODES PT, ACCOMACK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, USA (COORDINATES: LAT: 37.91667; LON: -76.08333)	
Bander	Dr. JOHN S WESKE 17514 DOCTOR BIRD ROAD SANDY SPRING, MD 20860-1211	
Encounter Data		
Location	0.3 mi SW of SUMMERVILLE (HISTORICAL), CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES	Encountered 07/12/2023

124th 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 16 – Point Lookout, MD

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

Dec 17 – Port Tobacco, MD

Compiler: Gwen Brewer, Coordinator Mike Callahan, 240-765-5192 or raptorsrulemc@gmail.com

Dec 23 – Patuxent River, MD

Compiler: Ben Springer, 443-771-6636 (text preferred) or ben.springer@comcast.net

Dec 31 – Fort Belvoir, VA and MD

MD Sector Coordinators: Lynne Wheeler, 301-751-8097 or somdaudubon@yahoo.com

Or Bob Lukinich, 301-283-6317 or rdlukinich@gmail.com

Chancellor's Point, St. Mary's County

by Ben Springer

The morning trip to Chancellor's Point on Saturday, September 9, began cloudy, but as the sun began to shed light on the tree-line, many migrating birds appeared, actively flying and feeding at the meadow's edge. We walked along the tree-line and through the forest trail to a small cove near the river that was full of activity. There were many migrant warblers, including Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Magnolia, and Chestnut-sided, just to name a few. Other highlights included several Baltimore Orioles feeding high in a large oak tree along with Scarlet and Summer Tanagers and American Redstarts.



Cape May Warbler (above)
Chestnut-sided Warbler (left)
Photos by Steve Arthur

eBird checklist can be viewed here:
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S149440466>

Point Lookout State Park

by Tyler Bell

Had my trip been held the following weekend, it would have fit the trend of my trips being cancelled by weather. Tropical Storm Ophelia drenched southern Maryland on Saturday, September 23. But, the weather for this day was spectacular! Cool, sunny, nice breeze and no bugs. There were ten of us, including myself, which was a perfect number. After our rendezvous in Ridge, we carpoled to the park and met in the picnic area. There was some sort of revival going on there and it was packed. The aroma of grilled foods was very tempting but nobody offered.

Warblers were playing hard to get all day. Pine Warblers were the most evident in the park, some still singing. Palm Warblers, all of the western subspecies, were the most numerous overall. We ended up with six species for the day.

Raptors were much more cooperative, though. If you count vultures as raptors, then we ended up with ten species. Flyover Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks allowed everyone to see the difference in the two in flight which makes identification much easier. Perhaps the best raptor of the day was a perched Merlin, a medium sized falcon, near the picnic area.



Merlin
Photo by Steve Arthur

Gulls were oddly absent from the park. The amount of guano on the lighthouse shows that they are usually there in big numbers but we only had five Laughing Gulls and one Ring-billed Gull! A stop at the north end of the causeway, as we were leaving the park, allowed scope views of Common and Forster's Terns and adult and juvenile Royal Terns.

At one point on the trip, Annette Cook, a SMAS board member, noted that on Ben Springer's field trip the weekend before, he had a total of 37 species. At that point, we had 35 species. So, it became a contest to beat their tally. I didn't take long to break it. Hats off to Ben for giving us a goal! After stops along Brown Road and Long Neck Road, we ended the trip with a total of 50 species. To view the trip report, follow this link: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/158431>



All but one of the group
Photo by Annette Cook

Winter Finch Forecast

by forecaster Tyler Hoar

GENERAL FORECAST 2023-24

This year's Winter Finch Forecast will be a mosaic of movements differing in intensity and area across the species.

Forecasts apply mainly to Ontario and adjacent provinces and states. Three irruptive non-finch passerines whose movements are often linked to finches are also discussed. To learn more, subscribe and follow the blogs, news, and updates at The Finch Research Network, and explore finch wanderings this fall and winter on eBird.

The boreal forest has generally a poor to below average cone crop this year that is bookended with bumper cone crops in Alaska and Newfoundland. Coastal areas to the south on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts have above-average cone crops, which seem to quickly drop in quality as one progresses inland. Large areas of the boreal forest across interior Canada have a very poor to poor cone crop. Only the Alder crop appears to be above average across the boreal forest.

The southern edge of the eastern boreal forest from Lake Superior eastward to the Atlantic coast and southward to the northeastern states has extensive areas of bumper Eastern White Pine crop. This area also contains an above-average deciduous tree seed crop and excellent fruiting crop.

PURPLE FINCH

The movement of this species is one of opposite extremes this fall. Strong southward flights have been seen by mid-September at the Hawk Ridge Hawkwatch near Duluth, Minnesota. While to the east at Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac, Quebec, there has been very little movement. Northwest of Duluth into northwestern Ontario and Manitoba, the pit fruit and cone crop is below average, with reported areas of absence of food. While east of Lake Superior, the pit and deciduous fruit crops are above average and widespread.

In the east, many Purple Finches are expected to overwinter in southern Canada and the northeastern United States. Meanwhile from the upper Midwest states westward, there should be a stronger flight southward through the middle of the United States. Don't be surprised if, as winter progresses, a late movement in January and February occurs into the Carolinas as eastern crops are depleted.



At feeders, they prefer black oil sunflower seeds.

COMMON AND HOARY REDPOLLS

Across the whole boreal forest, a good Alder crop has been reported. However, in the same areas, the spruce and birch crops are poor to below average. Expect a moderate flight south out of the boreal forest. Watch for redpolls on birches, in weedy fields and at bird feeders offering nyjer® and black oil sunflower seeds. Watch for Hoaries in flocks of Common Redpolls. See the link below for photos and identification marks of Common and Hoary Redpoll subspecies.

PINE SISKIN

Significant numbers of siskins have started to leave the boreal forest in mid-September, with 1000s reported daily at migration monitoring stations from Duluth, Minnesota eastward to Tadoussac Quebec. With the poor White Spruce crop in much of the boreal forest, there should be a moderate to possibly strong flight of siskins southward this fall. This entertaining species prefers nyjer® seeds in silo or sock feeders.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

With poor to absent cone crops reported across the interior boreal forest away from Alaska and Newfoundland, noteworthy movements of White-winged Crossbills have already occurred eastward to the Maritime Provinces and northeastern states since June. The excellent spruce crops in Alaska and Newfoundland have drawn many crossbills away from the interior. As remaining crossbills exhaust the below-average cone crop within the boreal forest, expect nomadic movements of small flocks of crossbills to come south during the winter in search of food. Thus, additional movements may be seen this winter into areas like southeastern Canada and the northeastern states, and westward into upper Midwest States and southern Manitoba as they look for suitable cone crops.

We may even see White-winged Crossbills away from forests, using heavy crops on planted native and ornamental spruces within urban environments.

Finch Forecast continued on Page 6.

Finch Forecast continued

RED CROSSBILL

As written above there is an excellent and widespread Eastern White Pine cone crop in place, and Type 12s have been around in their usual areas in the northeastern states since June-July.

During the middle of July however, Types 2 and 4 started invading the Great Lakes area, Ontario, Maritime provinces, and the northeastern states from across the continent, and there are growing subtle signs that Type 3 might be coming eastward as well. These types will all be hitting the bumper Eastern White Pine crop until it is exhausted (the White-winged Crossbills will probably hit it too). Birds will also be found in the remaining Red and White Spruce crops through fall and into early winter.

Once the calendar flips to 2024, will the Eastern White Pine crop be enough to hold birds and possibly initiate breeding, or will they be on the scramble looking here there and everywhere for food? As we get into the heart of winter, be sure to check your local patch of pitch, red, jack and Japanese black pines (aka the “hard pines”) for Type 12 and likely other types like large-billed Type 2 that will come south into coastal area pitch pine. Overall, expect crossbills to turn up in widespread areas in the east as winter progresses and turns into spring. Type 1 will be in the mix in interior areas as well.

The Red Crossbill types are usually impossible to identify without recordings of their flight calls. Recordings can be made with a smartphone and identified to type. Matt Young (info@finchnetwork.org) will identify types if you email him your recordings or upload them to an eBird checklist. Recordings uploaded to eBird checklists are deposited in the Macaulay Library. See this link for [Red Crossbill call types](#).

EVENING GROSBEAK

Eastward from Lake Superior is a bumper crop of fruit on Chokecherry, and above-average berry and deciduous seed crops. With this diverse and widespread food source available in the east, expect most birds to remain in the boreal forest and adjacent areas of Central Ontario, southern Quebec, the Maritime provinces, New England states, and New York this winter.

Evening Grosbeaks in northwestern Ontario westward should move out of the boreal forest, looking for feeders in towns or suitable food sources further south. Evening Grosbeaks in the mountains of western Canada may move southward as well.

At platform feeders, Evening Grosbeaks prefer black oil sunflower seeds. Evening Grosbeaks will look away from feeders for maple and ash trees still holding seeds. See these links for [Evening Grosbeak call types article](#) and [The Evening Grosbeak Road to Recovery Project](#).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Populations in the boreal forest should have small flights this year. Balsam Fir in the boreal forest, which is not infested with Spruce Budworms, has a good cone crop. This crop should hold many nuthatches closer to home this winter.

To read the entire article, click on this link: <https://finchnetwork.org/winter-finch-forecast-2023-2024>

FiRN is a nonprofit, and was granted 501c3 status in 2020. We are a co-lead on the Evening Grosbeak Road to Recovery Project, and have funded upwards of almost \$10,000 to go towards research, conservation and education for finch projects in the last year plus. FiRN is committed to researching and protecting these birds and other threatened finch species like the Evening Grosbeak, Rosy-finches, and Hawaii's finches the honeycreepers, and if you have been enjoying all the blogs and identifying of Evening Grosbeak and Red Crossbill call types (upwards of 20,000 recordings listened to), redpoll subspecies and green morph Pine Siskins FiRN has helped with over the years, please think about supporting our efforts and making a small donation at the [donate link here](#).

A Misty Morning at Historic Sotterley

Trip Report for Saturday, September 30 by Dean Newman

I knew it was going to be a great morning when, upon nearing the Historic Sotterley gate, I saw a hen Wild Turkey with over 20 poults feeding at the edge of the field. Even better, when I arrived thirty minutes before the official meet time, one person was parked at the gate waiting for the trip to start. Unfortunately, we found the gate closed and were both a bit trepidatious about opening it on our own. Thankfully, no padlock was present so I, as trip leader, took the responsibility of opening it fully expecting the police to show up shortly. As further proof of a great day coming, they didn't.

Eventually, sixteen participants arrived; fourteen from SMAS and two from the invitation I had extended to the Loffler Senior Activity Center weeks before. As a side note, SMAS President, Molly Moore, and myself had conducted a bird-watching seminar for them mid-July which was a big hit.

The first few minutes of the trip were spent explaining how to adjust participant's binoculars (diopter adjustment) to account for differences in each eye thereby reducing fatigue at the end of the day. Next, I encouraged everyone to download the Merlin App to their smart phones and gave a brief overview on how to use it. From then on, I refused to identify sightings instead asking them to use Merlin for that purpose. What a great way to take pressure off the trip leader!

As soon as we started down the trail the sky turned to a light, misting rain which persisted for over half the trip. No one seemed disillusioned by this contradiction to the weather forecast and the smile of anticipation and discovery never left their faces. Whenever I looked back, all I could see were smart phones held aloft catching every sound and calls of excitement as they ticked off all kinds of birds heard but not seen. All the while I kept reminding them that a birding life-list is a "highly personal" endeavor and no one had the right to judge. (Do we really have Pterodactyls in Southern Maryland?)

At the end of the three-hour walk, I'm not sure how many species we tallied but, aside from numerous Merlin revelations, it's safe to say we didn't set any records. Besides the Wild Turkeys mentioned earlier, I'd call our best bird a Cape May Warbler (life bird for Annette Cook) and we, not Merlin, actually heard a Veery in the deep brush. Not sure if Annette counted that one or not. (Although I think she counted the Pterodactyl).

How can anyone not enjoy leading a SMAS bird walk? Aside from being outside performing an activity I absolutely love, I get to hang with the best people in the world. In spite of the rain, wet feet and clothes, and bird paucity, not a single grumble was heard. There was conversation, laughter, jokes, and great socialization missing in today's environment of social media and ear buds. I'd go so far to say a good bird walk on a rainy day would do a lot of good for our Congress.

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. 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!

Welcome, New Members!

Anne Burroughs, La Plata

Connie Calloway, Waldorf

Robin Clay, Hollywood

Sherry Cohen, Washington DC

Annette Cook, Mechanicsville

Helen Hovland, Lexington Park

David Ludy, Cobb Island

Patricia Malatesta, Huntingtown

Nature Journaling

by Molly Moore

I will never look at nature the same after spending a morning learning to nature journal with Kaelyn Stewart (right), winner of our teen scholarship to the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine.

Fourteen of us of all ages gathered on the bucolic shore of Wheatley Lake in Gilbert Run Park in Charles County, sketchbooks and pens in hand and more than a bit apprehensive that our artistic skills might embarrass us.

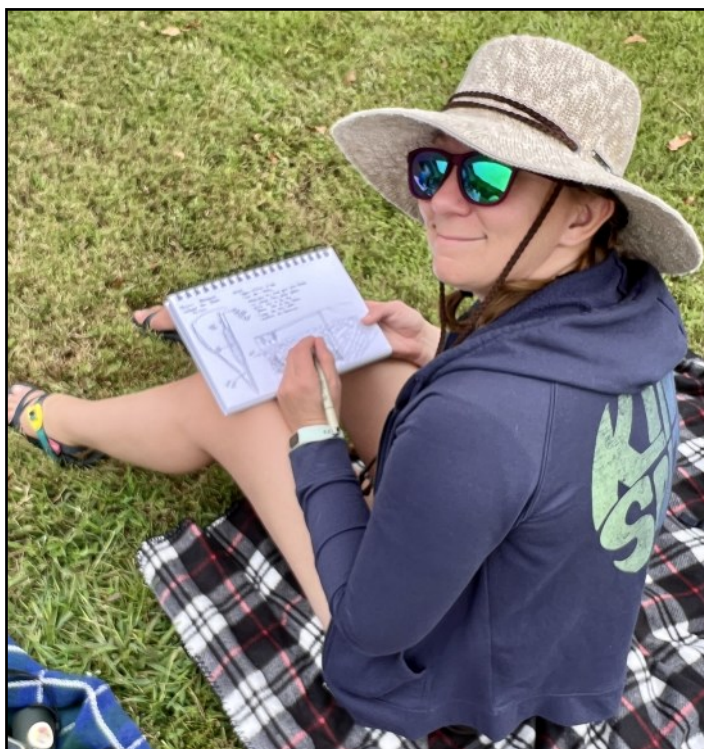
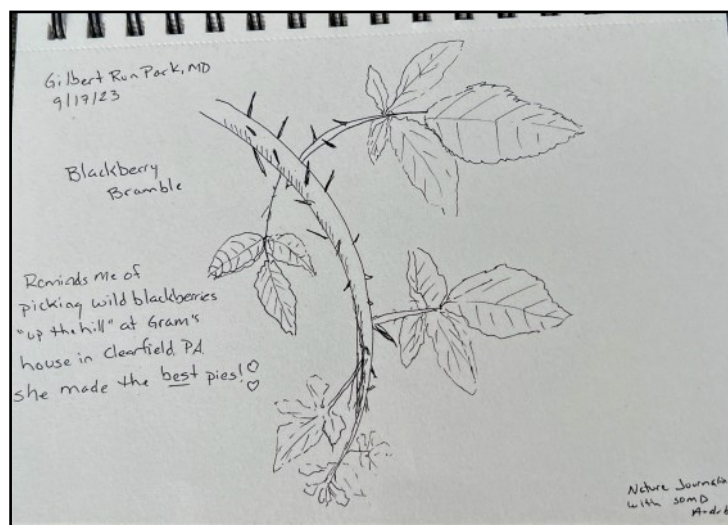
Kaelyn, with enthusiasm and patience, guided us to observing nature through a personal prism, to look beyond the obvious and closely inspect the patterns on a disintegrating cattail seed head, or the symmetry in a fallen sycamore leaf.

After each exercise we laid our sketchpads on a nearby picnic table for discussion by the group. The results astounded us all! Beyond the artistry Kaelyn drew out of us, the stories the sketches revealed about our individual relationships to nature were captivating.

In the final exercise Kaelyn, a senior at North Point High School for Science, Technology and Industry in Waldorf, asked us to find and sketch an object in nature that reminded us of something from our childhoods. Many of us chose plants that drew us back to days spent with a grandparent — blackberry patches or a field of brilliant goldenrod. One of the youngsters in the group drew a sketch of his family fishing on the lake in front of us.

Kaelyn will be hosting another Nature Journaling workshop Sunday, October 22 from 10:00 — 11:30 a.m. at White Plains Regional Park in Charles County. It's free and we provide the sketchbook and pen! RSVP to president.somdaudubon@gmail.com. We already have some of September's group returning.

(Photos by Molly Moore)



October — November 2023 Events continued

October 7 - SATURDAY - 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon (NOTE DIFFERENT DATE AND TIME**)**

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Port Tobacco Recreation Center

8190 Port Tobacco Road, Port Tobacco MD 20677

“SOUTHERN MARYLAND BIRDS OF PREY”

Speaker: MIKE CALLAHAN — Southern Maryland Audubon Society Raptor Conservation Chairman, Environmental Educator

Come join us **in-person** and meet some of our Southern Maryland raptors face-to-face as raptor expert Mike Callahan discusses the behavior and habits of the hawks, eagles and owls indigenous to our region. Mike will be accompanied by several live raptors from the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center, providing a closer look at these magnificent and remarkable birds. Mike will discuss the effort to re-establish a sustainable breeding program for Barn Owls which MD DNR lists on its Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species lists as rare, and in need of conservation. RSVP not required.

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

FIELD TRIP

Cove Point Beach and Marsh, Calvert County

“SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS AND MIGRANTS”

Leader: BOB BOXWELL

Cove Point beach and marsh is a unique habitat on the Western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. A living shoreline project is helping to restore the fresh water marsh from salt water incursion. We will target sparrows, marsh inhabitants and migrants. Flat sandy walk. May be wet (wind and tide dependent). This is a restricted area and we are limited to ten guests. Exact location and directions given upon reservation. RSVPs were due by September 29. Contact Bob at 410-231-1251 or robertboxwell1@outlook.com to see if it's not too late!

October 14 – SATURDAY – 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

FIELD TRIP

Port Tobacco River Park, Charles County

7740 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

“COUNT ME IN FOR BIRDS”

Leader: LYNNE WHEELER

Join Lynne at the Port Tobacco River Park pavilion and learn how to identify birds, and count them! This trip will prepare you to participate in upcoming Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) in December. We need your help! Multiple Christmas Bird Counts are held December 16 – December 31 throughout southern Maryland in Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's County. This is an opportunity to learn how it is done, as well as how to use the MERLIN bird I.D. smart phone app. We will have a 30-minute discussion at the pavilion, followed by a bird walk in the park. Binoculars and the MERLIN bird app is recommended. RSVP to Lynne at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (text only).

October 22 – SUNDAY – 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

NATURE WORKSHOP

White Plains Regional Park, Charles County

1015 St. Charles Parkway, White Plains, MD 20695

“JOY OF NATURE JOURNALING”

Leader: KAELYN STEWART

Always wanted to learn nature journaling? Or want to take your journaling up a notch? A great way to spend a fall morning getting closer to birds and nature. Kaelyn will guide us in learning to observe nature on a more intimate level at White Plains Regional Park. An easy walk to a pleasant setting. Workshop is free. Open to all ages 10 and above. Sketchbook and pen will be provided. Meet in the park parking lot, look for us beneath a hand-held Southern Maryland Audubon Society logo sign. RSVP required to president.somdaudubon@gmail.com

September — November 2023 Events continued

October 28 – Saturday - 8 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

American Chestnut Land Trust, Calvert County

North Side Trails: 676 Double Oak Road, Prince Frederick 20678

“OCTOBER BIRDING AT THE CHESTNUT LAND TRUST”

Leader: DEAN NEWMAN

Enjoy the possibility of both late summer migrants heading south and arriving winter songbirds. Moderate terrain through field, wood, and wetland. Directions: From Solomons Island Road, in Prince Frederick, turn onto Dares Beach Rd. Continue for 2.5 miles before taking a right onto Double Oak Rd. From here attendees will drive another mile before turning left into the Land Trust parking lot where the walk will begin. No park fee. Contact Dean Newman at deannewman03@gmail.com

November 1 – WEDNESDAY - 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM – Zoom Meeting

“WINTER WARBLERS”

DR. CODY KENT, Assistant Professor of Quantitative Vertebrate Biology, Frostburg State University
New World warbler beauty and diversity has long fascinated birders and scientists. Their spring arrival begins the height of bird activity across most of North America. But much of their time is spent wintering in southern latitudes, particularly in the Caribbean where concentrated warbler diversity reaches its zenith. Research over the last two decades has shed more light on the importance of wintering conditions for their survival and nesting success. Dr. Kent will discuss our current understanding of warbler population biology in the Caribbean including foraging behavior, distribution and interactions with other species. Dr. Kent completed a Ph.D. at Tulane University where he began research on wintering Caribbean warblers. His current research includes examining how small-scale land management actions impact bird diversity within Washington DC and large-scale studies of how human activities impact niche diversity in warblers across the United States.

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

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.

2023—2024 Officers

President, Molly Moore - president.somdaudubon@gmail.com
Vice President, Ben Springer—ben.springer@comcast.net
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