

The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

President's Perch



Winter Solstice Sunset
Photo by Carrie Staples

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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

Winter is a great time to observe birds. You can watch their antics from the warm comfort of your kitchen window with a cup of hot tea. Or you can layer up for a brisk outing in your neighborhood or local park.

Most deciduous trees have shed their leafy garb, giving us a bird's eye view of woodpeckers foraging for burrowing insects, Cedar Waxwings searching for berries and Carolina Chickadees pecking away at Sweetgum balls for seeds.

Winter waterfowl are showing up on our coastal shorelines and even in urban ponds. I spotted a flock of elegant Hooded Mergansers on the pond near the Waldorf Library West recently after one of our native plant workshops.

We invite you to join our winter field trips listed in this newsletter to spot winter waterfowl and migrants. If you'd rather stay indoors, but do more than just dream about your spring garden, we have a winter sowing in milk jugs workshop coming up Saturday, Jan. 27 at St. Mary's County Public Library in Lexington Park with tips on how to winter sow everything from native plants for birds to summer veggies for yourself— and you'll get to plant your own jugs to take home. You can sign up [here](#).

Perhaps you'd like to channel your inner Edgar Allan Poe with our Feb. 7 meeting Zoom lecture, "Think Like a Raven," featuring one of the country's leading corvid experts, Dr. John Marzluff. Common Ravens were identified as breeding for the first time in Charles County in 2022 and we're seeing more and more reports of these raucous avians. I spotted a pair lurking on the utility wires at the parking lot of Capt. John's Crab House near Cobb Island.



Common Raven
Photo by Ed Oakes

Calling all educators, teens and others interested in learning more about birds and wildlife! Applications are now open for our three scholarships to this summer's amazing Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. Several times a year I run into folks who've won the scholarship in the past and they all say it was a "life-changing experience." Scroll down for all the details on applying.

As always, we invite you to volunteer for any of our many activities to help birds. We'd love to have you in our flock.

Happy birding!
Molly Moore

Scholarships to Audubon Hog Island Camp

Southern Maryland Audubon Society is now accepting applications for scholarships to Audubon Camp in Hog Island, Maine. For 2024, SMAS will offer three types of camp scholarships for teens, educators, or others with a serious interest in ornithology, bird watching, or environmental and nature studies. Applications must be received by **February 29, 2024**. The scholarships cover tuition, room, and board. The recipient is responsible for all travel expenses. For details about each camp scholarship and Covid-19 guidelines, go to the Audubon Hog Island website at <https://hogisland.audubon.org/programs>

CAMP PROGRAMS OFFERED

Birders	Field Ornithology	June 16 – June 21
Teens	Mountains to Sea Birding for Teens (ages 14 -17)	June 23 – June 28
Teachers	Sharing Nature: An Educators Week	July 14 – July 19

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

How will you benefit from the Hog Island opportunity?

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

Your signed letter must include:

Mailing Address

Email Address

Phone Number

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

Please also submit a recent photograph of applicant .

Scholarship recipients must submit a written article for our Osprey newsletter about their experience by August 5, 2024, and possibly a brief presentation at one of the Monthly Meeting Programs for 2024 – 2025.



Please send applications to:

Annette Cook

Scholarship & Education Committee Chair
Southern Maryland Audubon Society
acook.somdaudubon@gmail.com



The Great Backyard Bird Count



Art by Charley Harper

2024 Great Backyard Bird Count

The 2024 GBBC will take place Friday, February 16, through Monday, February 19. Please join us for the 27th annual count!

<https://www.birdcount.org/about/>

Spend time in your favorite places watching birds—then tell us about them! In as little as 15 minutes notice the birds around you. Identify them, count them, and submit them to help scientists better understand and protect birds around the world. If you already use eBird or Merlin, your submissions over the 4-days count towards GBBC.

Connect to Birds, to Nature, and with Each Other

Birds are everywhere, all the time, doing fascinating things. Join us, February 16–19, 2024, when the world comes together for the love of birds.

[How to Participate](#)

Be Part of a Global Event

Watch observations roll in from around the world. Each submitted checklist becomes a glowing light on our bird sightings map. Results from 2023 are inspiring.

[Watch the World Map Light-Up](#)

[Explore 2023 Data](#)

Showcase Your Photos from the Count

We enjoy seeing your pictures from the count. Share pictures of birds, yourself, and others birdwatching in your yards or at your favorite birding spots.

[Learn How to Share Photos](#)



Map Your Community Birding Event

Are you birding for GBBC as a part of a community event? Add it to the map so others can join you and so we have a better sense of how the world comes together to celebrate birds.

[Add to the Map](#)



IBA NEWS: TERN RAFT FOR ESTUARY IBA

by Paul Baicich

The Birding Community E-Bulletin

Ideally, most Important Bird Areas (IBA) require some level of care, maintenance, and monitoring, especially given the inevitable potential changes in surrounding habitats and the general climate-change scene. So, when tern colonies seriously began declining, along with their preferred nesting islands in Chincoteague Bay, Maryland, real concerns were raised. Older sandy nesting islands had been washed or eroded away with a change in inlet water surges and the severity and frequency of storms, while the impact of sea-level rise only compounded the problem.

In 2009, the state's Coastal Bays region was designated an IBA due to its tern and Black Skimmer nesting habitat, however Royal Terns and Black Skimmers have not nested successfully there in recent years. Common Terns are still present, but their numbers have plummeted about 76%, from roughly 2,500 pairs across the state in 1985 to about 600 pairs in 2018, which was the last year with reliable population numbers.

Conservation partners at Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, Audubon, and other NGOs have been interested in rebuilding and recovering some of the lost nesting-islands, but the entire permitting and planning process could realistically take many years. Fortunately, building some artificial nesting-rafts to give Common Terns, and perhaps Black Skimmers, some interim nesting relief was seen as an option.

In 2021, an artificial "floating island," or raft-complex, that was 32' x 32', was built to provide breeding habitat for Common Terns in Maryland's Chincoteague Bay. This was the first seabird nesting raft ever attempted in the mid-Atlantic States, with no guarantee of success. Without this raft, topped with crushed-clamshell surface, bird conservationists feared that the terns could disappear from Maryland entirely as a nesting species.

In that pilot year, the raft had 23 nests and 22 fledglings. In 2022, the raft was expanded to 48'x48', which weighed a hefty 34 tons. This effort yielded more than a 7-fold increase of birds with 155 nests and 153 fledglings, becoming the largest breeding colony in Maryland. In 2023, the raft-system hosted a surprising 323 nests.

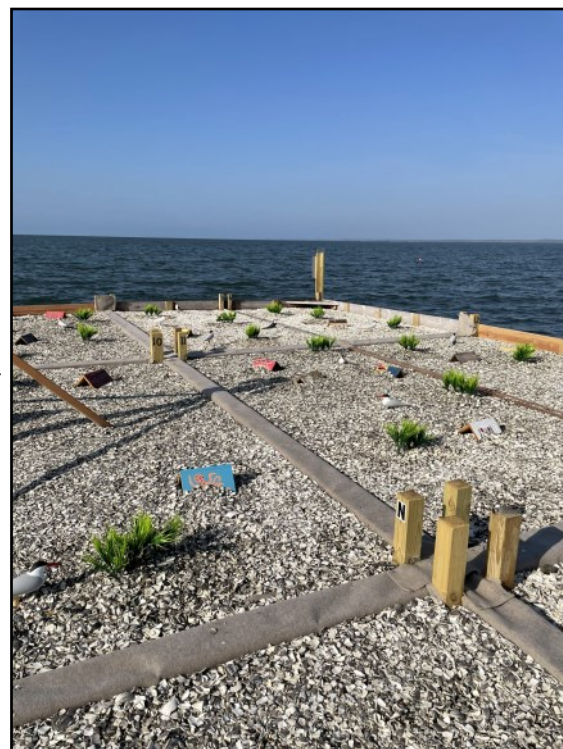
While not an inexpensive or low-effort solution, artificial islands can be an important stopgap conservation technique and a short-term strategy to provide critically needed breeding habitat for terns until more permanent island solutions - involving dredge material - are planned, permitted, and created.

You can read about the recent efforts here:

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/fall-2021/an-artificial-island-may-be-lifeline-marylands>

You can also watch a 45-minute report (followed by a Q&A session) by Kim Abplanalp, one of the project ringleaders, with all the details from design, to costs, to results. It was from a Howard County Bird Club (Maryland) event in mid-November:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftpGSFiCRUs>



Tern raft on Assawoman Bay

© 2022 Maryland Coastal Bays Program

Continued on page 5, see Tern Raft

Tern Raft, continued

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program – where Kim Abplanalp is the Bird Habitat Coordinator – has been the primary working group on the project along with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Audubon Mid-Atlantic.

For details on the Maryland Coastal Bays IBA, see here:

<https://gis.audubon.org/portal/apps/dashboards/ab402cba1acc461d924783cf0f5e181c#site=363>

For additional information about worldwide IBA programs, including those in the U.S., check the National Audubon Society's Important Bird Area program web site at:

<https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas>

[Editor's Note: WMPT aired an episode featuring the floating tern island on "Outdoors Maryland". The episode can be viewed at this link:

<https://video.mpt.tv/video/episode-3401-eofzq1/>]



Above: Common Tern nest with eggs

Below: Tern raft

Photos by Kim Abplanalp

© 2023 Maryland Coastal Bays Program

THE BIRDING COMMUNITY E-BULLETIN

You can access all the past E-bulletins on the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) website:

<http://refugeassociation.org/news/birding-bulletin/>

Paul J. Baicich

410-992-9736

paul.baicich@verizon.net



Owl Research Report

Learn more about the owls of North America, including ongoing nesting studies, winter censusing, and owl banding in *The Roost*, the annual publication of the Owl Research Institute. Featuring Short-eared Owls this year, other long-term projects are described for Great Gray Owls, Northern Hawk Owls, Snowy Owls, Northern Pygmy Owls, Long-eared Owls, Boreal Owls, Great Horned Owls, Northern Saw-whet Owls, and Barred Owls. The descriptive information about each study is illustrated with photographs from the field, of owls and researchers alike.

Some projects have been on-going since 1980, so this report provides a wealth of information about owls! You can review the 2023 issue of *The Roost* at [Owl Research Institute](https://owlresearchinstitute.org/). You can also review other issues of *The Roost* to get more insights into owls and the biologists who study them from the Owl Research Institute, centered in western Montana near Charlo.

Share your backyard birding experiences and photos with The Birding Wire at editorstbw2@gmail.com

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

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The on-going study of Short-eared Owls is featured among the variety of research projects on owls, which are described in the new issue of *The Roost*, published annually by the Owl Research Institute (photo by Paul Konrad).

Dear Readers:

Welcome back from our winter break! 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!

Pamela Brumbley, Fort Washington

Octavian Cretu, Owings

Barbara Davit, Lusby

June Harley, Dunkirk

Paul C Holden, Cheltenham

David Norman, Leonardtown

Barbara G O'Neill, Saint Inigoes

Karen Osborne, Leonardtown

Anna Richnafsky, Owings

Christine Senese, Leonardtown

Melissa Siegel, Potomac

Carolyn Steiner, Lusby

Bryan Talenfeld, Mechanicsville

Christina Underwood, Port Republic

Mary Kevin Welch, Beaufort, NC

The New Animated Film ‘Migration’ Draws Inspiration From Birds’ Real Journeys

Here’s what the Universal Pictures film got right (and wrong) about one Mallard family’s epic adventure.

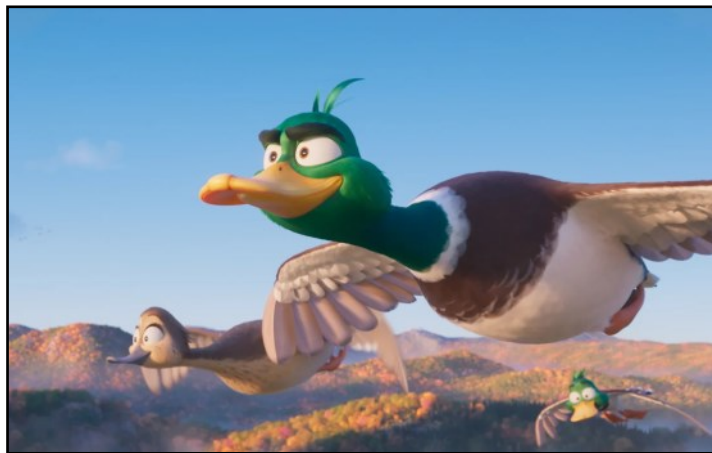
By Paige Curtis, Editorial Fellow, Audubon Magazine

Hot on the heels of fall migration comes *Migration*, a Universal Pictures animated film debuting this Christmas about a family of Mallard ducks. If you haven’t seen a trailer yet, the basic plot goes like this: Though the dad, named Mack, is satisfied with his quiet, safe, and predictable life in a New England pond, the mom, Pam, is eager to show their kids, Dax and Gwen, more of the world. When the Mallards meet a group of migrating ducks with tales of far-off places, Pam persuades Mack to take off for their own family adventure to Jamaica. Their daring trip quickly goes awry, but the experience pushes them to broaden their horizons and make new connections—from street-smart pigeons to tropical macaws—along their way.

The film, written by Emmy-award winning creator of *The White Lotus*, Mike White, captures the grandeur of migration with scenic flight sequences of the family over lush landscapes, drawing inspiration from the real bird phenomenon. Roughly 40 percent of bird species migrate seasonally between breeding and wintering habitats; whereas other “resident” species meet their needs around the same home range all year.

For birds that evolved to migrate, the benefit of better access to food or nesting locations improves the overall odds of survival. But as Mack fears, travel is also a risky affair that exposes birds to dangers both ancient and modern, such as hurricanes, predators, habitat loss, and light pollution, to name a few. In the film, Dax and Gwen endure a scary encounter with a pair of Great Blue Herons, known to occasionally prey on ducklings. And in New York City, the family contends with traffic and trash—while narrowly avoiding colliding with skyscrapers, a major source of migratory bird deaths. It’s no wonder that of the estimated 3 billion birds lost since 1970, 80 percent are migratory.

The urge to migrate can even vary within some species and breeding populations, as the Mallard family accurately shows—a phenomenon called “partial migration.” Red-winged Blackbirds, Blue Jays, Red-tailed Hawks, Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons, Canada Geese, and many other species are partially migratory. And it’s not just birds who exhibit this behavior: Butterflies, fish, wildebeests, and rhinos also have partial migrants who stay put year-round.



Still: Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Most wild Mallards, which are abundant throughout North America, do migrate to some extent during the winter, especially when northern ponds and lakes freeze over. But there’s also a lot of variability among regional populations and even individual birds. “Mallard migration is far more complex than we previously thought,” says Mike Brasher, senior waterfowl scientist at Ducks Unlimited. “Mallards express individual tendencies when it comes to their wintering destinations. In any given year, one duck might migrate to one destination and stay there, while another might roam around their home range.” Efforts to track birds with radio tags and bands even show that Mallards and other partial migrants often travel east and west, upending long-held paradigms that migrating birds travel only north or south.

On the whole, scientists don’t quite know why some individuals of a species migrate while others remain residents. Experts have some general theories. In one, dominant or older birds outcompete subordinates for scarce food in winter, forcing those that lose out to migrate to areas with less competition. Another theory points to body size: Smaller birds may be more likely to migrate than bigger, hardier birds.

As larger ducks, Mallards excel at putting on fat, and are the most cold-tolerant dabbling duck—helpful during those winter months if a bird does choose to stick around a chillier locale. “They’re kind of the perfect animal when it comes to adapting to changing conditions,” says Brasher. Wild Mallards have also interbred with resident feral ducks, potentially affecting the migration behavior of these hybrid birds.

Continued on page 8, see Migration

Migration continued

Though *Migration* highlights a real aspect of bird migration, the filmmakers definitely took some, shall we say, liberties. You would be hard-pressed to find real-life ducks as close knit as the movie's Mallard family. "By the time female Mallards incubate their eggs, males are usually out of the picture," says Aaron Pearse, research wildlife biologist at USGS. "Even ducklings from the same brood may not necessarily stay together," he says. (Sorry to those who loved Dax and Gwen's on-screen sibling dynamic). Beyond that, ducklings that have yet to molt don't have the right feathers to fly, making this family affair even less plausible.



A stopover in New York City provides a gauntlet of challenges for the Mallard family.
Still: Courtesy of Universal Pictures

And although Jamaica is certainly a fun vacation destination, the only Mallards known to exist there were likely introduced by humans. According to Brasher, increasingly warm winters across North America means that northern Mallards are less likely to migrate south at all, let alone all the way to the Caribbean.

Of course, *Migration* is a children's movie after all, so some embellishment is expected. The mere fact that a major studio produced a children's comedy about birds is worth celebrating, as it's sure to inspire a new generation of bird-lovers. Though simply wanting an adventure is perhaps the least likely reason for a bird to migrate, it makes for a thrilling story.

Associate editor Zoe Grueskin contributed supplementary reporting.

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(SMAS)**

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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

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. JOIN OUR FLOCK OF VOLUNTEERS!

Southern Maryland Audubon Society's primary missions are education, public outreach, and environmental advocacy to support birds and the habitat they need to thrive in Southern Maryland and beyond.

SMAS's robust activity calendar includes:

- Bird Walks
- Workshops
- Presentations
- Youth & Public Outreach
- Festival Exhibits
- Community Science

Upcoming Volunteer Activities

4/6/24 Maryland Osprey Festival at Drum Point Club, Lusby, MD

4/13/24 Virginia Osprey Festival at Colonial Beach, VA

4/20/24 we've been invited to participate in St Mary's County Earth Day at Summerseat Farm

4/27/24 we've been invited to participate in the Lexington Park Library's Sustainability Fair

Volunteers of all ages, levels of birding expertise, and availability are needed to help support our programs and activities. Even small actions make a difference!

Act Now! Contact acook.somdaudubon@gmail.com for more information about volunteering with SMAS.



JOIN THE FLOCK!

Ross's and Snow Geese

Photo by Mick Thompson

Upcoming Events

January 20 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Field Trip

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, Calvert County

10515 Mackall Rd, St Leonard, MD 20685

“WINTER WATERFOWL TRIP”

Leader: Tyler Bell

Open fields, edge habitat, and wooded areas offer a variety of both resident and winter bird species. Additionally, the river frontage provides close views of waterfowl including Horned Grebe, Long-tailed Duck, Ruddy Ducks, both scaup, Common Goldeneye, and lots more! Call or email Tyler for directions to the meeting spot. Flat with occasional hills and largely paved. No fee. Restrooms available. Maximum of 10 participants. RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844A8A923ABFFC70-47052009-winter> or to Tyler Bell at jtylerbell@yahoo.com or 301-862-4623.

February 7 – WEDNESDAY – 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Monthly Meeting Program – Zoom Meeting

“THINK LIKE A RAVEN”

Dr. John Marzluff, Professor, University of Washington, College of the Environment

This past year during the Maryland Bird Breeding Atlas Survey, Common Ravens were identified as a breeding species for the first time ever in Charles County, and sightings are becoming more and more frequent. Dr. Marzluff, a top authority on Ravens, will discuss his research on how ravens behave and interact with other wildlife and people in Yellowstone Park, providing insight on what we can expect from ravens as they expand their range in Southern Maryland. Dr. Marzluff studies the effect of habitat, fragmentation and increased urbanization on birds. He focuses primarily on corvids, but has also worked with falcons and hawks throughout the world. He has written several popular science books about crows, including most recently *Gifts of the Crow*. In recognition of his work, he has been awarded to HR Peyton awards from the Cooper Ornithological Society as well as the Washington State book award for general non-fiction.

February 10 – Saturday – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Field Trip

Point Lookout State Park, St Mary’s County

10444 Point Lookout Rd, Scotland, MD 20687

“SEA DUCKS AT THE POINT”

Leader: Phin Rouland

We will meet at the picnic area parking before walking to the Chesapeake Bay side of the point to scan for sea ducks including all three scoter species, Common Goldeneye, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, and Long-tailed Ducks. Other species of note could include horned grebe, two loon species, and Northern Gannet. The remainder of the time will be used walking the picnic area and trails around Fort Lincoln and could include Brown-headed Nuthatch, Pine Warbler, and Fox Sparrow. Flat but unpaved. Gate fee \$3 per car. Restrooms available. Limit 10.

RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844A8A923ABFFC70-47052033-seaducks>

or to phin.rouland@gmail.com.



Drake Barrow’s Goldeneye originally found by Phin Rouland at Pt. Lookout on December 13, 2020. Continued during the winter of 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. Hasn’t been relocated yet this winter. Will it be on this field trip?

Photo by Jim Ivett

Upcoming Events continued

February 17 – Saturday – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Field Trip – Great Backyard Bird Count

Tilghman Lake, Charles County

10598 Box Elder Rd, La Plata, MD 20646

“GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT AT TILGHMAN LAKE”

Leader: Lynne Wheeler

Learn how you can participate in one of the year’s largest citizen science projects. Meeting at the Tilghman Lake pavilion, you will be instructed on how to compile checklists for the Great Backyard Bird Count, and afterward as a group try your hand at it. This event will include a mile-long hike around the lake which encompasses pine and mixed woods, as well as brushy thicket and open lawn. After the walk we will hang out at the pavilion continuing to add to our count. Easy unpaved terrain. No fee. Restrooms available. Limit of 15 participants.

RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844A8A923ABFFC70-47052053-great>

or to Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com

or text 301-751- 8097.

March 6 – WEDNESDAY - 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Monthly Meeting Program – Zoom Meeting

“SAFE SKIES — HOW WE CAN DO MORE TO PROTECT BIRDS AS THEY MIGRATE”

Dr. Mark Southerland, Director of Safe Skies Maryland, Maryland Ornithological Society

1 billion birds die every year in window collisions. Migratory species are often lost prior to reproduction during spring migration, while fledglings may be lost in while attempting their first migration in the fall. Populations of neotropical migrants cannot sustain these losses indefinitely. Safe Skies Maryland was created to empower citizens to know what to do about this significant threat, to have direct access to the most scientific and technological information, and more specifically to know how to prevent it, and protect birds for future generations. Dr. Southerland received his PhD in Ecology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He continues to work as an environmental consultant, including supporting Maryland, DNR since 1993. He leads the legislative program of the Safe Skies Maryland, including the state legislation, under consideration and the bird safe buildings law that passed Howard County in July 2020.

March 9 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Field Trip

Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary’s County

21866 Cedar Point, Bldg. 2189, NAS Patuxent River, MD 20670. Gate #2

“WINTER BIRDS AND TUNDRA SPECIALISTS AT PAX RIVER AIRFIELD”

Leader: Dean Newman

We are fortunate to have access to sections of the Navy base fronting on the confluence of the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay, which hosts airfields that provide tundra-like habitat. Previous trips have turned up winter birds such as Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspurs, Short-eared Owls, Horned Larks, Savannah Sparrows, Wilson’s Snipe and Peregrine Falcon. Preregistration is required and open to U.S. citizens only. Must bring photo I.D. Meet at pass office parking lot, Gate #2. We will be escorted and traveling together in a van; participant size is limited to 13. No restrooms. RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844A8A923ABFFC70-47052075-winter>

or to Dean Newman at deannewman03@gmail.com

April 6 – SATURDAY – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Maryland Osprey Nature Festival

Drum Point Club, Lusby, Calvert County

See the upcoming March issue of *The Osprey* for more information or click on this link:

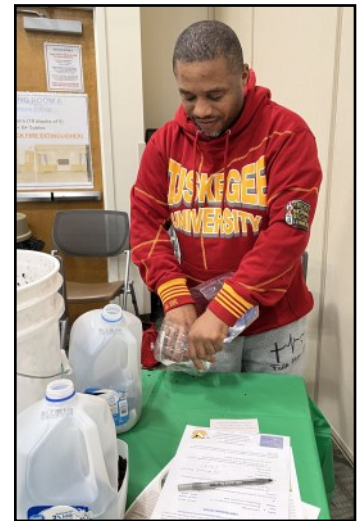
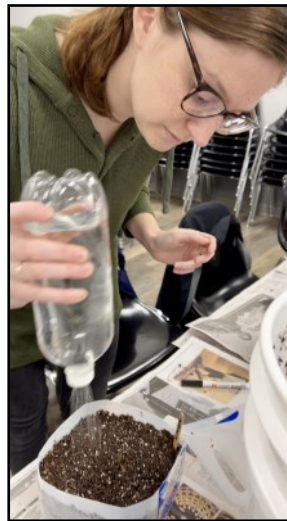
<https://marylandospreyfestival.org/>

Southern Maryland Audubon Society in Action

Text and photos by Molly Moore

Cold weather hasn't slowed our birding or our gardening for birds this winter. Gardeners of all ages learned how to winter sow native seeds in milk jugs in the dead of winter at our workshops at Charles County Public Library Waldorf West and St. Mary's Public Library Charlotte Hall. We have another winter sowing workshop at St. Mary's Public Library Lexington Park on Jan. 27. Sign up here: <https://stmalib.libnet.info/event/9177203?registration=true>

Expert and novice birders spread out across Southern Maryland for the 124th annual Christmas Bird Count, the longest-running community science project in the United States.



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Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS)

1.8K likes • 2K followers



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