

# The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

## President's Perch



Sleepy Orange  
Photo by Carrie Staples

### IN THIS ISSUE

**Great Backyard Bird Count**  
**SMAS In Action**  
**2024 Waterfowl Survey**  
**Bird Feeder Care**  
**Upcoming Events**  
**Welcome New Members!**  
**Join The Flock!**



<http://somdaudubon.org/>

Spring migration is just starting and we are entering the best time of year for birding in Southern Maryland!

In the next few weeks you might see and hear unusual winged visitors in your yard or neighborhood as millions of birds begin heading north for spring and summer breeding.

It's a great opportunity for birders, but it's also a dangerous time for birds. The birds you encounter may be exhausted from long-haul flights with little food and rest.

The best food and shelter you can provide are the native plants in your yard or area. You might be tempted to start cutting back those dead stems and seed heads now. It's better for birds and insects if you can leave them standing until the weather warms up even more—the longer you can wait, the better. They provide shelter and food for tired birds.

Now is also a great time to give your feeders and birdbaths a thorough cleaning to help prevent the spread of disease. Check out the story on page 5 in this issue for proper care and cleaning of your feeders.

Along with the arrival of migration, our calendar is packed with great events, field trips and programs for the coming weeks, from our talk at the Lexington Park Library on how to turn your yard into a bird B & B, to Osprey festivals in Maryland and Virginia, to a variety of great field trips across Southern Maryland. See our Events list below for all the details and how to sign up.

We are always looking for volunteers to help us plan and conduct our many events. Would you like to lead a bird trip in your neighborhood or local park? Do you like to meet new people at local festivals and share your love of birds? (You don't have to be an expert, just bring your bird love.)

Contact Annette Cook at  
[acook.somdaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:acook.somdaudubon@gmail.com)  
for more details.

Enjoy the spring  
and happy birding,  
Molly Moore



Osprey photo by Gabriela Otter

# Great Backyard Bird Count

Tilghman Lake Park, La Plata, MD

by Lynne Wheeler

February 16 to 19 marked the 27<sup>th</sup> Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). There are many reasons why we participate in bird counts. Bird populations are dynamic; therefore, we need to collect data in hopes of understanding their complex movements and population distribution.

What are we trying to derive? What are our questions? They are numerous, such as:

- How is weather and climate change having an impact?
- How are avian diseases affecting their population?
- Is the timing of bird migration changing?
- Are we seeing a change in bird populations in cities versus suburban or rural areas?
- Why do winter finches appear in large numbers some years but not others? What can we learn from their patterns?

The more we collect bird population data the better chance we have to answer these questions. If you counted birds in your backyard this year, we want to thank you! More than 600,000 people from 209 countries found 7,899 species! That means approximately 2/3 of the world's known species were reported during the four-day count.

I scheduled a GBBC community event this year on Saturday, February 17 at Tilghman Lake Park in La Plata. And just as weather can affect our bird populations, a snowy weather forecast resulted in the event being rescheduled to Monday February 19. Winter birding is tough – and as we reach out to educate people in our community about birds and how they as community scientists can assist, we also want to make the event enjoyable and hope they come out to help again! Keeping that in mind I scheduled our GBBC to start at 11 am – not a particular “birdy” time to bird, but it sure was a bit warmer versus 8 am.

While we only had six of us, five were all new birders! This is what I love – talking about birds to those who have never delved into the avian world. We chatted about birds, how to bird, resources to use such as eBird and Merlin ID, the benefits of field guides – electronic and hard copy, and numerous little bird factoids as we walked around the area. We all seemed to have a good time, I know I did. We logged in 14 species (again, not a great time for birding) and I do believe it helped to spark interest.

I am so happy to also get residents together and have the opportunity to educate them about the Town of La Plata becoming a Bird City - LOL – our FIRST Bird City Maryland (I have a thing about pointing out first!). Most don't realize how impactful initiatives like Bird City, Bee City, and Tree City can be – one of the biggest is it creates a conduit to town/city planners to put into town planning codes to help promote or protect our natural world. Many sit back and complain about growth – but what have you done about it? Be helpful, get involved, and help to protect the habitat of our communities.



Top photo by some random hiker!

Bottom photo by Bill Smith



## The GBBC Count Is In!



Another Great Backyard Bird Count has made history.

# Great Backyard Bird Count

Huge thanks to all our local birders who participated in this international community science event.

Southern Maryland Audubon Society Membership Chair Lynne Wheeler led a workshop at Tilghman Lake Park in LaPlata during the count, teaching new birders how to identify birds and enter eBird data. [see page 2]

Globally 7,899 species were observed and 319,400 checklists were turned in. That means approximately 2/3 of the world's known species were reported in 209 countries with a record number of 600,000 participants.

In Maryland, Worcester County, taking in Ocean City and Assateague Island on the Eastern Shore, recorded the highest number of species at 127 and suburban Washington's Montgomery County turned in the most checklists at 784.

Here in our SMAS territory, Prince George's County participants identified 101 species from 328 checklists; Calvert County birders IDed 94 species with 124 checklists; St. Mary's County birders recorded 89 species from 99 checklists; and Charles County reported 70 species with 63 checklists.

Click on this link to see all Maryland county data:

[https://ebird.org/gbbc/region/US-MD/regions?yr=EBIRD\\_GBBC\\_2024&m=](https://ebird.org/gbbc/region/US-MD/regions?yr=EBIRD_GBBC_2024&m=)

## Midwinter 2024 Waterfowl Survey Results Released

by Maryland Department of Natural Resources

In early January, aerial survey teams of pilots and biologists from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted their annual population estimates of ducks, geese and swans along the state's Chesapeake Bay, tidal Potomac River and Atlantic coast shorelines. This year, the teams counted about 593,200 waterfowl which was lower than the 632,200 birds observed in 2023 but consistent with the most recent five-year average of 596,500 birds.



Photo by State Park Ranger Elena Gilroy  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

"Waterfowl are continually responding to environmental cues like weather and food availability as they seek resources necessary to ensure their survival," said Wildlife and Heritage Director Karina Stonesifer. "The standardized survey protocols associated with the Mid-Winter Survey allow our biologists to assemble a long-term picture of waterfowl abundance and distribution in Maryland, and this survey represents one of the department's many contributions to state, regional, and continental waterfowl data collection efforts used to manage this valuable resource."

Overall, dabbling duck numbers (91,300) were similar to the 2023 count of 93,600 birds. While the number of Mallards (45,100) and American Black Ducks (24,200) were close to their respective 5-year averages (50,800, and 21,760), the number of Green-winged Teal counted in 2024 (17,500) was much higher than recent years.

Continued on page 4, see **Waterfowl**

## Waterfowl, continued

The 2024 mid-winter survey was conducted during the first two weeks of January, just prior to the cold weather that occurred later in the month. The timing of the survey flights likely led to lower diving duck counts than in 2023 (190,300). Biologists counted 350,500 Canada Geese in the 2024 survey effort which was slightly higher than both the 320,800 geese counted in 2023 and the 5-year average (321,960).

The Midwinter Waterfowl Survey has been conducted annually since the early 1960s and covers most of the tidal shorelines and near-shore waterfowl habitat in Maryland (see below for survey results from the last 5 years).

### Midwinter Waterfowl Survey Results 2019-2024\*

*Figures rounded to the nearest hundred*

Species	2019	2020	2022	2023	2024
Mallard	39,000	56,000	53,500	56,800	45,100
American Black Duck	17,200	21,000	24,600	21,800	24,200
Gadwall	4,800	10,800	6,800	3,400	2,600
Wigeon	1,200	1,100	300	1,900	500
Green-winged Teal	1,500	2,000	6,900	6,200	17,500
Northern Shoveler	100	300	900	200	100
Northern Pintail	600	1,800	4,600	3,300	1,300
<b>Total Dabblers</b>	<b>64,400</b>	<b>93,000</b>	<b>97,600</b>	<b>93,600</b>	<b>91,300</b>
Redhead	20,600	10,600	7,000	12,800	10,000
Canvasback	46,000	46,900	7,700	57,800	18,800
Scaup sp.	72,100	59,000	29,500	74,000	28,400
Ring-necked Duck	1,100	3,000	2,100	6,200	7,000
Common Goldeneye	100	300	100	400	300
Bufflehead	13,200	11,400	10,600	16,800	16,300
Ruddy Duck	28,900	18,500	22,400	22,300	39,500
<b>Total Divers</b>	<b>182,000</b>	<b>149,700</b>	<b>79,400</b>	<b>190,300</b>	<b>120,300</b>
Scoters	27,800	5,700	1,300	3,400	1,800
Long-tailed Duck	300	200	100	100	100
Mergansers	2,000	2,300	1,400	1,700	1,900
<b>Total Ducks</b>	<b>276,500</b>	<b>250,900</b>	<b>179,800</b>	<b>289,100</b>	<b>215,400</b>
Brant	900	900	200	400	1,100
Snow Goose	34,700	40,900	13,600	12,500	16,100
Canada Goose	250,200	327,200	361,100	320,800	350,500
Tundra Swan	4,000	7,100	7,400	7,300	9,600
<b>Total Waterfowl</b>	<b>566,300</b>	<b>627,000</b>	<b>563,800</b>	<b>632,200</b>	<b>593,200</b>

\*The survey was not conducted in 2021 due to the Covid pandemic.

<https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2024/02/02/midwinter-2024-waterfowl-survey-results-released/>

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## Bird Feeder Care

Let's emphasize our feeding station and feeders, with an initial intent to appreciate all this simple addition to our yard does to focus some portion of our daily attention to birds that come to feed and drink and bathe, while providing you with a "daily dose of nature" above and beyond your trees, shrubs, and flowering plants. The birds add life to it all – moving, acting, reacting, lively animals that fly into view, share something of their looks and behavior, and add so much to our daily psyche.

Sometimes we overlook the importance of this regular interaction with nature, but let's appreciate our feeder birds just a little more this week. At the same time, let's take a second look at our feeding station and feeders. Does your feeding station add an attractive element to your yard? Do you like the look of your collection of feeders? Consider the hangers or posts you use? Do you have a hodge-podge of feeder styles, or do you have a designer's touch with all feeders colored green, or red, or a rainbow of colors. Even a simple rearrangement of your feeders can add a little stimulation to your feeding station view outside your windows.



An organized, clean, well-stocked feeding station adds a lot to our yard and benefits birds in the best possible ways.

How does the area beneath the feeders look? Does it need to be cleaned up? Do you need a prompt to take some moments to do a thorough raking of seed shells and avian droppings at this point in the year, or do you keep on top of this often overlooked or postponed aspect of feeding birds. It's best to keep your bird feeding area as tidy as possible, especially with the concern for the health of the birds in mind.

While we're at it, how about your feeders? Is it time for a good cleaning again? If you've been keeping up with regular feeder washing, sometimes a quick rinse can be a plus in between true cleaning sessions. How about your water basin? A regular scrub can go a long way, and remember that it's a good idea to give your cleaning brushes a good cleaning periodically too. I think a lot of us became more aware of "germs" during the peak of the covid epidemic, washing our hands much more often, wiping things down with sterile cleaning napkins, and other things. While we may have eased up on some of that practice, I think we all became more concerned with cleaning our bird feeders more often, along with the area underneath and around our feeding station.

One more thing you can do to add a little more appeal around your feeding station, especially as the weather warms enough for outdoor plants to flourish, is to add a couple decorative pots filled with blooming flowering plants. If you select plants that provide nectar-rich flowers for hummingbirds, so much the better.

### Focus on Foods

We know that sometimes around this turning point of nature's calendar, some people's attention for feeding birds becomes a bit diminished, so let's consider this point as we greet March and April's days of promise – the promise of warmer, greener days with new birds arriving in our neighborhood – and let's re-energize our daily bird feeding efforts. By keeping feeders stocked with seeds, nuts, and suet; nectar, and by providing fresh water regularly – all with daily checks of food and water levels – you stand a better chance of attracting more interesting birds more regularly, and that's an important reason we feed birds, in addition to the obvious benefit of providing a nutritious, dependable food source for birds.

Continued on page 6, see **Feeders**



## Feeders, continued

As birders, we take great pride in feeding birds and making our feeding station an integral and attractive part of our yard. It's always worthwhile to step back and take a second look to appreciate how important our feeding station is to us, and to the birds that visit it.

Share your birding experiences and photos 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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### 2024 Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival

**Saturday, April 6 - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Come celebrate the return of our beloved Ospreys, experience live raptors up close, and enjoy nature and family fun in a beautiful waterfront setting. We will learn about important conservation topics such as depletion of menhaden schools due to industrial over-harvesting with keynote talks by Mr. Michael Academia, MSc. from the William & Mary Center for Conservation Biology, and William Halnon, ESQ and David Reed, ESQ from the Chesapeake Legal Alliance. The festival will have live music from Deanna Dove, food, vendors, arts and crafts, and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society will be there with a table and to lead nature walks. It's a great chance to see Pine Warblers and Brown-headed Nuthatches, too!

Drum Point Club - Lusby, MD

\$10.00 per person, \$20.00 per family

All parking (except handicapped) is at Patuxent High School with Courtesy Shuttles starting at 9:45

**Free Event - Friday, April 05 - 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM**, at the Drum Point Club there will be a lecture by naturalist Alex Pellegrini from Maryland-National Capital Parks and fundraising social, followed by a music concert with Monkey Business 7:00 - 9:00 PM

<https://www.marylandospreyfestival.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/MONFinApril>



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## Upcoming Events

**March 23 – SATURDAY – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

### **In Person Lecture**

**Lexington Park Library, St. Mary's County**

21677 FDR Blvd., Lexington Park, MD

### **“HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN BIRD B&B”**

*Molly Moore, President, Southern Maryland Audubon Society*

Learn how to attract more birds and pollinators to your yard, patio or deck without spending a fortune. Southern Maryland Audubon in partnership with the Lexington Park Library will give you tips for providing the native plants, water sources and shelter birds need to thrive, whether you have a big garden or an apartment window box. And we'll show you how to make your windows and surroundings safer for the birds you attract. Weather permitting, we will move outside to identify birds visiting the library grounds. Bring binoculars if you have them, but we will also have loaners.

Registration: <https://stmalib.libnet.info/event/9929489>

**March 30 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

### **Field Trip Bird Walk**

**Point Lookout State Park, St Mary's County**

10444 Point Lookout Rd, Scotland, MD 20687

### **“EARLY MIGRATION AT THE POINT”**

*Leader: Phin Rouland*

Catch some of the earliest signs of migration at one of Maryland's peak hotspots. Attendees will meet at the picnic area parking and together we'll walk down to the Point. We'll scan both the Chesapeake and Potomac waters for any remaining winter waterfowl as well as for spring arrivals including Osprey, Brown Pelican, and tern species. At the point we'll target Northern Gannet which are in peak numbers passing by on migration. We'll spend what time is left around the picnic area and on trails around Fort Lincoln. Highlights could include arriving swallow species, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Yellow-throated Warbler. Flat but unpaved, around a 2-mile walk. Gate fee \$3 per car. Restrooms available. Limit 12.

RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844A8A923ABFFC70-47681455-early>  
or to [phin.rouland@gmail.com](mailto:phin.rouland@gmail.com).

**April 3 – WEDNESDAY - 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

### **Monthly Meeting Program – Zoom Meeting**

### **“WILD SEX: HOW NATURE DOES ‘IT’”**

*Speaker: Kerry Wixted, Amphibian & Reptile and Invasive Species Program Manager, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies.*

Nature is WILD and, sometimes competition for reproduction is fierce. From the birds to the bees (and even the orchids!). Join naturalist Kerry Wixted to learn how different plants and animals procreate in odd, interesting, and sometimes deadly ways. Kerry Wixted is a Maryland naturalist with over 15 years' experience studying flora and fauna of Maryland, and currently the Amphibian & Reptile and Invasive Species Program Manager at the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. She has previously worked for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Kerry holds a B.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Management from Frostburg State University, and a M.S. degree in Biology from West Virginia University. To receive the Zoom link, please e-mail [president.somdaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:president.somdaudubon@gmail.com).

This lecture may qualify for Master Naturalist continuing education hours.

Continued on page 8

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## Upcoming Events, continued

**April 6 – SATURDAY – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

### Field Trip – Talk & Walk

**Mount Aventine Chapman State Park, Charles County**

3452 Ferry Pl, Indian Head, MD 20640

**“CHAPMAN FOREST: A UNIQUE NATURAL COMMUNITY. A FOREST ECOLOGY LECTURE AND SPRING BIRD AND EPHEMERAL PLANT WALK.”**

*Leader: Lynne Wheeler*

Join us at historic Mount Aventine situated within Chapman State Park, a 2200-acre forest. This is a joint event hosted by our new local chapter Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay, a national non-profit focusing on incorporating native plants into our landscape, presented by Lynne, Membership Chair for Southern Maryland Audubon Society and Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay. The event starts with a 40-minute talk at the historic Mount Aventine, an 1840 antebellum home, about the unique forest ecology of Chapman Forest. Come and learn about how native plant communities are a direct result of their ecology. As they say: location, location, location. The combination of deep ravines, calcareous soils, and close proximity to the Potomac River has produced a remarkable flora predominately composed of species typical of the inner piedmont and carbonate areas of the Appalachians that are otherwise rare to absent on the Coastal Plain, especially in association. Chapman Forest is considered to be Maryland's largest and finest example of this natural community type, and is also designated as an Important Bird Area by Audubon. After the presentation we will take a 60 – 90-minute walk into the forest looking for spring ephemeral plants and birds. RSVP required. Space limited to 15.

RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4DA4A82AA2F5C34-47121269-chapman>  
or to Lynne at [somdaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:somdaudubon@yahoo.com) or text to 301-751-8097.

**April 13 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

### Virginia Osprey Festival

**Town Hill (Intersection of Colonial Avenue and Washington Avenue)**

Colonial Beach, VA 22443

Visit the Southern Maryland Audubon Society's table at the Virginia Osprey Festival which will include great bird info as well as bird crafts for kids.

Festival features Osprey and nature experts and exhibits, arts and crafts vendors, food and music — and starring the Ospreys which have built nests throughout the town of Colonia Beach.

Events on Town Hill are free. Tickets required for special presentations in the Fisheries Building.

More details at:

<https://www.virginiaospreyfoundation.org/event-details/6th-annual-virginia-osprey-festival-in-colonial-beach>

Continued on page 9



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## Upcoming Events, continued

**April 20 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

### **Field Trip – Earth Day Talk & Walk**

#### **Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum**

10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard, MD 20685

#### **“EARTH DAY BIRDING PROGRAM/WALK AT JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK & MUSEUM”**

*Leader: Annette Cook*

Join SMAS for a short birding program in the JPPM Visitor’s Center Conference Room, during which attendees will be introduced to the Merlin bird identification app. The program will be followed by a slow, guided bird-walk along the park’s trails. Meet at the Visitor’s Center by 8:55am, parking is available across the entrance road from the VC. A limited number of loaner binoculars will be available. Attendees are invited to bring a picnic lunch for after the walk concludes. A large cooler will be available to keep food items cool until lunch. Target Species: JPPM’s many micro-habitats offer the chance to see waterfowl, woodpeckers, raptors and various song birds. Terrain: Easy. Mostly level, paved or gravel. There is a boardwalk with some steps. Wear comfortable shoes; we will stick to trails, but some muck is possible. Pace: Slow, with much pausing to binocularize! We may pause to sit quietly and see what comes to us. Distance: About 1 mile total. Restrooms: Available in Visitor’s Center, Pavilion, and portable units in King’s Reach Field parking lot and along Indian Village Trail.

RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844A8A923ABFFC70-47073427-earth> or to [acook.somdaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:acook.somdaudubon@gmail.com)

**April 20 – SATURDAY– 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

### **Field Trip Bird Walk**

#### **Historic Sotterley, St. Mary’s County**

44300 Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, MD 20636

#### **“WHAT’S SOARING AT SOTTERLEY”**

*Leader: Dean Newman*

Enjoy a bird walk at this scenic and historic Patuxent River property as the annual surge of bird migration begins. Nesting Bald Eagles, migrating warblers, meadowlarks, woodpeckers and waterfowl can all be found on Sotterley’s farm roads and trails. DIRECTIONS: From Rt. 235 go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through the gates into Sotterley, proceed to the gravel parking lot.

RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844A8A923ABFFC70-48403523-migration> or to Dean Newman at [deannewman03@gmail.com](mailto:deannewman03@gmail.com)

**April 27 – SATURDAY – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

### **Field Trip Bird Photography**

#### **Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert County**

1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, Lusby, MD 20678

#### **“PHOTOGRAPHERS FOCUS ON BIRDS!”**

*Leader: Jan de Regt*

A new kind of birding field trip – bring your camera and share with other photographers your knowledge and passion with other photographers! We can all learn more about how to take the best photos of birds, and this event will enable us to sharpen our skills and improve our knowledge. There is no better place than Flag Ponds Nature Park to focus on! Meet at parking lot 1A. Entrance fee \$5 per vehicle. Restrooms available. Maximum of 15 participants.

RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844A8A923ABFFC70-48432771-photographers> or to Jan at [jedereg@me.com](mailto:jederegt@me.com)

## 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 Maryland Osprey Festival at Drum Point Club, Lusby, MD
- 4/13 Virginia Osprey Festival at Colonial Beach, VA
- 4/20 We've been invited to participate in the St. Mary's County Earth Day at Summerseat Farm
- 4/27 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](mailto:acook.somdaudubon@gmail.com) for more information about volunteering with SMAS.



Ross's and Snow Geese

Photo by Mick Thompson

## Welcome, New Members!

Marilyn Barber, Leonardtown

Scott Brees, Rose Haven

Nancy Dennehy, La Plata

Nicholas Gardiner, White Plains

Robert Harris, Clinton

Charles Hudman, Newburg

Mary Jordan, Washington D.C.

John Kelly, Washington D.C.

Everett Lawit, Chesapeake Beach

Sandra Markowitz, Timonium

Judy Mutter-Smack, Huntingtown

Mary Newman, La Plata

Margaret Shapiro, Chevy Chase

George Stockton, Suitland

### 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!

Follow us on Facebook @somdaudubon



**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](http://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](http://somdaudubon.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.

### 2023—2024 Officers

President, Molly Moore - [president.somdaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:president.somdaudubon@gmail.com)  
Vice President, Ben Springer—[ben.springer@comcast.net](mailto:ben.springer@comcast.net)  
Treasurer, Julie Daniel—[juliemdaniel@hotmail.com](mailto:juliemdaniel@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*