

The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

President's Perch



Migration Time!
Photo by Steve Arthur (and AI)

IN THIS ISSUE

Hummingbird Feeding Tips

Nesting Mississippi Kites!

Gateway Native Garden

**Cranes adopt a gosling,
Part 2.**

Bird Safe Buildings Act

Hog Island Camp

More...



<http://somdaudubon.org/>

It's been an "interesting" month since I've become your president. When accepting the job back in June, I thought being leader of a bird club just meant upgrading my Bushnell binoculars for Vortex. Nothing could have been further from the truth or prepared me for the "drinking-from-a-firehose" journey I've experienced thus far. Let me just say that only through the graciousness and patience of an experienced board of directors have I not run this ship aground.

The major news is your board approved the three objectives every National Audubon Society-affiliated club must pursue each year. We, I as president (I told you this job is more than just new binoculars), have to report on our activities in these areas at the end of the year.

The three objectives we chose are:

Public Outreach

- If you haven't already, take a look at our website's events page. You'll see the first two events of many more to come called, "Slow Birding". These are birding events specifically aimed at those who either don't want to walk or are mobility challenged. We've appointed Jan de Regt, a brand-new board member you elected last June, as the sub-committee head focusing on these events.
- Vice President, Ben Springer, and Field Trips committee head, Phin Rouland, are posting flyers at St. Mary's College of Maryland for an upcoming walk close to that campus. This is an attempt to "test the waters" if we can draw more participation from that age group.
- We are looking for opportunities to partner with other ethnic communities. If you're from a community other than "old and white", relax, we're not trying to absorb your membership into ours. We are trying to "learn and affirm" and promote multiple, cross-cultural-environmental issues that we're obviously not addressing now. Please help us learn and transform ourselves.
- These aren't all we're doing in the public-outreach arena but I'm not at liberty to reveal others until the board approves at the end of September.

Bird Conservation

- If you haven't heard, grasslands are the fastest-disappearing habitat on the planet; way faster than rain forests or Arctic ice. Southern Maryland Audubon Society has partnered with many local farmers in the tri-county area to delay mowing hay fields until after young birds have fledged.

See Perch, continued on Page 2

Perch, continued

Bird Conservation, continued

- Additionally, we've engaged St. Mary's College of Maryland's Environmental Studies Department to structure our monitoring of this program's effect into a scientific-acceptable format. Our goal is to continue this research for multiple years to understand trends and better forecast needs of grassland birds such as Eastern Meadowlarks and Grasshopper Sparrows.
- Our co-chair for this committee, Mike Callahan, does very effective community outreach by bringing live raptors to festivals, schools and other public events to bring awareness to the plight of these species.
- Mike also installs and manages Barn Owl nest boxes which have been very productive through the years. He works with another SMAS member, John Posey, who builds the boxes. Together, these two are making a difference in saving this vanishing species throughout Maryland.
- Let me take this opportunity to recognize the "silent warrior" in this effort, Bob Lukinic. Bob is on the front line of administrative environmental activism keeping informed and informing us, the Board of Directors, of important petitions and legislation currently working. He puts our name, Southern Maryland Audubon Society, on the dotted line for every one of these documents. Through Bob, Annapolis knows we're a contender with which to be reckoned.

Avian Education

- This goes hand-in-glove with our first objective, Public Outreach. Jan de Regt, Lynne Wheeler, another seasoned board member, and I are doing tri-county road shows on "Birding 101" in multiple venues and promoting birding and our event participation.
- Annette Cook, your Education/Scholarship Chair, actively seeks and manages scholarships for Hog Island Audubon Camp in Bremerton, Maine, to educate and train individuals for bird-education purposes. If you think, train the trainer, you get the idea. Annette is also the focal point for our participation in all the tri-county festivals. Through these efforts, she probably does as much or more for our objectives as the rest of us put together.



SMECO workers installing a Barn Owl nest box under the watchful eye of Mike Callahan

Photo by Mike Callahan

I run the risk in this article of being a bit loquacious and verbose but I promise not to write this much in the future. We, your Board of Directors, want you to know, your club is not sitting on its hands drinking chai lattes. Through the multiple fronts outlined above, we are doing our best to speak and act for birds. We solicit your comments, criticisms and conversation. In addition to the monthly general meeting on the first Wednesday, your Board meets the last Wednesday of each month and all are welcome to attend. Just send me an email (dnewman.somdaudubon@gmail.com) and I'll send you the Zoom link.

Until next month, keep birding.
Dean Newman, President

TIP OF THE MONTH: HUMMER ALERT

by Paul J. Baicich: 410-992-9736: paul.baicich@verizon.net



Last year at this time, we suggested that readers make a special effort to look for hummingbirds at flowering yards and appropriate feeding stations for hummer-concentrations and odd vagrants:

<https://conta.cc/3WvjOxu>

We are emphasizing this tip again this September. It can be a very active time for these amazing birds...in many localities. This post-nesting time for hummingbirds can prove very exciting. During this month, hummingbirds are likely to linger at appropriate flowering areas and at feeders when they aren't necessarily in a rush to move on. In fact, late summer and early fall can be optimal time for hummingbird wanderings.

Now is an ideal time to start checking out neighborhood feeders and ongoing public or semi-public hummingbird feeding stations. You never know what you might find. Also: if a rarity is located, it provides an opportunity to negotiate appropriate access and visiting times for other birders, and an opportunity to share the wonder of these fascinating birds.

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

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

Audubon Magazine: Hummingbird Feeding FAQs

by National Audubon Society

Published November 27, 2017

While native flowering plants are the best source of nectar for hummingbirds, supplementing with a well-tended sugar-water feeder can provide additional sustenance during nesting season and migration. [Consult our FAQ](#) to ensure your feeder does no harm—and helps your hummers thrive. (Read more about creating a hummingbird-friendly yard [here](#).)

Q: Do I need to buy special food for my hummingbirds?

A: No. The best (and least expensive) solution for your feeder is a 1:4 solution of refined white sugar to tap water. That's 1/4 cup of sugar in 1 cup of water. Bring the solution to a boil, then let it cool before filling the feeder. You can make a larger batch and refrigerate the extra solution, just remember to bring it up to room temperature before you re-fill the feeder. [Editor's Note: we microwave 200 mLs of water for 90 seconds to boil, stir in white table sugar to 250 mLs, cool, then fill the feeder.]

Q: When should I take down my feeders in the fall?

A: You can leave your feeders out for as long as you have hummingbirds around. You can even continue to provide the feeder after your hummingbirds disappear—late migrants or out-of-range species can show up into early winter. Follow the guidelines for keeping the feeders clean, even if the nectar goes untouched. Always discard any unused nectar in the feeder when you take it down for cleaning.

Q: Won't it make my hummingbirds stay too late if I continue to leave the feeder out for them?

A: No, hummingbirds are migratory species and are genetically programmed to head south in the fall. It's not a lack of nectar source or colder weather that makes them leave—they know it's time based on changes in the length of the day and the angle of the sun.

Mississippi Kites Breeding in St. Mary's!

by Tyler Bell

On Wednesday, August 6, I got a text from Ben Springer. Ben is SMAS's vice-president and a park ranger at Newtowne Neck State Park in Compton, St. Mary's County. Based on the timing, Ben was leaving work and found the first confirmed breeding record of Mississippi Kites for the county!

Ben's notes from his eBird checklist say it better than I could:

"I saw the first bird flying over the road and did a double take! Turned around but I couldn't see it past the trees. Then, I found a spot to park by the fields of the main road on Wathen Road where I waited until I saw the bird reappear and cross the field carrying a dragonfly past the far treeline. I drove further down the road and the Kite landed on a conspicuous perch where I observed at close range for a good 15 minutes as it periodically flew off to grab insects and return to its perch. Then, the bird flew around the nearby pond and into the trees with an insect and I followed it to where it landed, revealing a nest with at least one large chick which briefly left the nest and sat on the adjacent branch before returning when a parent brought food and fed it. First nesting record for St. Mary's County!"

The MD-DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 ran from 2020 – 2025 so this is just a wee bit too late to be included. Calvert County documented their first breeding record in 2019. Thankfully, they continued breeding at that same location through 2024. Charles County did not confirm breeding during BBA3. It's only a matter of time.

Clockwise from right:

Adult, photo by Ben Springer

Adult, photo by Steve Arthur

Juvenile, photo by Ben Springer

Kite nest, photo by Ben Springer



Gateway Native Garden

Story and photos by Molly Moore

In less than a year our Gateway Native Garden in Lexington Park has been transformed from a hard-packed patch of grass to flower beds bursting with blooms, pollinators and birds. A succession of native blooms has attracted both wildlife and humans all summer to the garden which is funded by a grant from the National Audubon Society. Expanding its role as a learning garden, we have hosted workshops on a variety of gardening, native plant, and bird topics and bird field trips for 300 participants over the past year.

Southern Maryland Audubon Society board member Molly Moore was invited to deliver two presentations on the garden at the International Audubon Leadership Conference in Montréal, Quebec this past July.

We will be dedicating the garden and celebrating our [University of Maryland Extension Bay-Wise Program](#) certification at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 26 during the Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Gardens' harvest festival. All are welcome! The Gateway Native Garden is located at 21737 S. Coral Dr., Lexington Park, MD.

We will be posting details on our upcoming native seed collecting, winter sowing and other workshops in the coming weeks. Check our Events page at www.somdaudubon.org for details.

Huge thanks to our dedicated volunteers, including those in the photos below, for help in weeding and maintaining the Gateway Native Garden.



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

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

Wings of Belonging: Sandhill Cranes Adopt a Gosling, the Continuing Saga!

Story and photos by Alan Ginsberg

Wings, Waddles, and Growing Pains: The Pond Family Prepares for Take Off (August 16)

Our favorite odd couple—or rather, odd quartet—continues to grow up before our eyes! Both the Sandhill Crane colt and the adopted Canada gosling are now strapping adolescents, clocking in at around 12 weeks old. That's right: they're officially in the gangly, flappy, “don't-call-me-a-chick” stage of birdhood.

Typically, Sandhill Crane colts and Canada goslings take their first real flights around 10 weeks of age, and right on cue, our dynamic duo has been putting in serious hours at flight training school. Over the last few visits to the pond, we've watched some truly entertaining training sessions: think less “Top Gun” and more “Wings of Wobble.” There's been vigorous wing-flapping, splashy runway runs through the shallows, and dramatic two-foot lift-offs—followed by equally dramatic crash landings.

They're not soaring yet, but they're definitely getting off the ground—and that's no small feat when your legs are longer than your wingspan.

But as they flap toward fledgling freedom, we're reminded that the next big challenge might not be flying—it's figuring out where to go. Migration season is coming, and with it, a potential fork in the sky.

Here's the biological fine print: Sandhill Cranes usually migrate later in the fall—think October or November—so they can enjoy one last Wisconsin bratwurst and ear of corn before heading to the southeastern U.S. They fly high too, often cruising at 5,000 feet like feathered jetliners.

Canada Geese, on the other wing, tend to migrate earlier, often beginning in September. And they fly at a lower altitude, typically between 1,000 to 3,000 feet—just high enough to make us squint and reach for that 1000 mm lens. Many “giant” Canada geese, like our little adoptee may be, are even known to stick around all year, especially in cozy southern Wisconsin, where there's open water and plenty of snacks courtesy of generous humans and unguarded golf courses.

So, will our little blended family stay together for the great migration? Biologically speaking, it's... complicated. The odds are against it—different species, different altitudes, different departure dates. But behaviorally, there's still a feather of hope. Birds imprint deeply, and these four have been an inseparable unit since the earliest days of gosling and colt fluff.

Could the gosling try to migrate with the cranes? Possibly, though the altitude, distance, and sheer wing power needed might be too much. Could the cranes stay behind a little longer? Unlikely, but nature has surprised us before. For now, we'll just root for the family to remain together for as long as nature allows—and if they do part ways, we hope it's with plenty of honks, bugles, and heartwarming goodbyes.

So stay tuned as we continue to chronicle this unique pond family—flights, farewells, and all. Because no matter where their wings take them, they've already flown into our hearts.



More On Windows: A Federal Connection

by Paul J. Baicich: 410-992-9736: paul.baicich@verizon.net



Bird collisions are deadly. Up to a billion birds die each year in the U.S. due to collisions with glass windows, walls, and other structures.

Last month in the Birding Community E-bulletin, there was a summary of the important sequential steps taken to protect birds from window impact taking place in Lake County, Illinois. The three-step sequence was as follows: first, adoption of bird-friendly retrofit-standards to county-owned buildings, second, bird-friendly building requirements for commercial buildings that included new construction/replacement, and third, a breakthrough ordinance for new residential construction, including single-family homes. See the summary here:

<https://conta.cc/3TwqBGa>

On the national scene, bird conservationists are still struggling to get an equivalent first step on federal buildings.

Fortunately, Representatives Morgan Griffith (R-VA) and Mike Quigley (D-IL) recently introduced the Federal Bird Safe Buildings Act. This would amend the federal code to mandate that federal buildings incorporate bird-friendly practices and strategies. These would include applying bird-specific tape or decals to glass, retrofitting windows, and adjusting lighting. Federal buildings would set a positive example and become part of the solution to stop this threat to declining bird populations.

This bill needs more House and Senate supporters. And the Congressional summer recess may be an ideal time to reach House and Senate members and get them on board.

For details, see this from Congressman Morgan Griffith's office:

<https://shorturl.at/mRBF6>

To see an interview a few months ago with both Congressman Griffith and Congressman Quigley by National Audubon visit:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/the-bipartisan-partnership-behind-bird-safe-building-act>

And more here from the American Bird Conservancy Action Fund:

<https://shorturl.at/m3tVF>

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

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

Hog Island Camp

By Darcy White

darcy4@hotmail.com

I heard a story at Hog Island of an ornithologist and artist whose vocabulary had dwindled to just “wow” and “gee” in the presence of natural beauty. I didn’t fully understand until a few days into camp I had realized that those two phrases had also become my main vocabulary.

Hog Island isn’t just a birding camp. It was a deep dive into a world that many forget exists: a world of feathers, ferns, and shared passions. The instructors were some of the most inspiring conservationists, educators, and artists I’ve met. We explored everything from tide pools to treetops, from fish mills to remote seabird islands. Each moment reminded me that birds aren’t separate from us, they are part of the same world we inhabit and if we lose them, we lose something of ourselves.

Dr. Sara Morris, a renowned ornithologist and educator, encouraged us to engage every sense while exploring the island—listening, smelling, touching, observing.

The smell of hay-scented ferns, feeling the moss bouncing beneath my feet, hearing the heartbeat of a Black-throated Green Warbler close enough to feel it. It was a complete sensory world, where learning didn’t just happen in notebooks but in our bodies, breath, and our hearts.

I met Scott Weidensaul, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, author, and bird migration expert, whose ears have grown quieter with time, but whose spirit could fill a forest. Before each hike, he made sure someone with “good ears” was nearby, like Corey Husic, who taught us how to see bird calls. These leaders reminded us birding isn’t about perfection and that anyone can do it. Birding is about connection, and wonder. It’s about showing up.

From lively puffins of Eastern Egg Rock to the quiet magic of Hidden Valley’s bogs, every day at Hog Island was an adventure. On the boat to Eastern Egg Rock, we watched puffins and terns dart across the waves with silver fish in their beaks, a sight made possible by decades of dedicated conservation. These birds, once nearly lost from this coast, now thrive thanks to the relentless efforts to bring them back. That’s the kind of conservation that inspires me, the kind that invites life home. Our journey took us from forests to wetlands, where we explored the unique ecosystem of a bog, with its pitcher plants and sundews—delicate yet fierce, surviving in harsh conditions. We learned about bird decoys, fish mills, and local farms, discovering how deeply connected these landscapes are to the people who care for them. Each experience, from the sea birds to the wetlands, wove together the richness of this land and its conservation stories, showing us that the Earth’s beauty is worth every effort to protect.

See Hog Island, continued on Page 8



Top: Darcy White enjoying a Hog Island sunrise

Bottom: Scott Weidensaul with Darcy White

Hog Island, continued

Back at the island, the learning never stopped, but neither did the comfort. The food was warm, nourishing, and unforgettable. The chefs and volunteers who kept us fed were the real heroes. Every meal was made with love, hearty breakfasts and warm cookies after wet field days. They kept us going, and I'm so grateful for them.

One of the biggest lessons I learned on Hog Island is that nature is a community. Nothing exists in isolation. The ferns depend on the forest, the birds on the insects, the trees on the soil, the soil on the



Campers show off their puffins!

microbes. It's all a system of relationships and humans are part of it too. On this trip I gained more than knowledge, I gained a sense of belonging. For the first time in a long while, I felt truly at home among strangers, united by a shared passion. We weren't just identifying birds, we were rediscovering what it means to be part of this world. I'm incredibly grateful to have made lasting friendships at Hog Island. Connections that have opened new paths for learning and sharing. Our camp didn't just teach us about nature, it brought us together, it created community.

Birds are everywhere, all the time. On telephone wires, over parking lots, in backyards, or perched in trees. You don't need expensive gear or extensive knowledge to notice them. You just need to look. And once you start looking, it's hard to stop. Birds are messengers, they show us the health of our ecosystems and how disconnected we may have become from them. Their wings remind us of movement, migration, freedom, and fragility. They're a built-in reminder that this world is alive and worth paying attention to.

I've been afraid that I'm not qualified enough to contribute to science or conservation. No degree. No formal path. But now I know that passion and presence are enough to begin. Hog Island taught me that education is everywhere. It's outside, in the birds, and in the conversations we have. Scott once said, "Self-enlightenment goes a long way," and I believe that. That love is a skill. That showing up, speaking out, planting native flowers, learning bird songs, and sharing what you know, these are all acts of conservation. So, this is my message to anyone reading: fall in love with the Earth again. Watch the birds. Smell the ferns. Feel the moss bounce beneath your feet. Get bitten by mosquitoes. Wake up early to watch the sun rise. Laugh with strangers. Let your language dwindle to just "wow" and "gee."

Because in doing so, you're not just watching nature—you're remembering you are nature.

And when we remember that, we might just save it.

Upcoming Events

September 13 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Historic Sotterley, St. Mary's County

44300 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636

“BIRDING THE FIELDS AND TRAILS OF SOTTERLEY”

Leader: Dean Newman

Join us for a fall excursion to this scenic and historic Patuxent River property, sponsored jointly by SMAS and Historic Sotterley. Bald Eagles, migrant songbirds and lingering meadowlarks and sparrows can be found via Sotterley's trails and river views. Directions: From Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road; turn right through gates to the visitors' center parking lot. Easy walking and very gentle slopes. Contact Dean Newman

dnewman.somdaudubon@gmail.com

September 20 – SATURDAY – 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

FIELD TRIP

A Special Private Location, Wildewood, California, MD

“QUIET BIRDING: A BACKYARD GET TOGETHER ABOUT BIRDS”

Leader: Jan de Regt

Come join Jan de Regt on a laid-back birding adventure sitting on a back deck drinking coffee and enjoying snacks. There's no walking involved. Bring your own binoculars if you have them. If not, a limited number will be provided. For maximum enjoyment download the Merlin Bird ID app to your smart cell phone and install the "US: Southeast" bird pack. These are all free and there's no massive email assault to deal with. Jan will show you how to use the app to identify all the birds without a bird guide. If you're interested, email Jan at the address above and she'll give you the address to the private location where the event will take place.” RSVP to Jan at jederegt@gmail.com

September 20 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

ANOTHER Historic Sotterley, St. Mary's County

44300 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636

“BIRDING THE FIELDS AND TRAILS OF SOTTERLEY”

Leader: Dean Newman

Join us for a fall excursion to this scenic and historic Patuxent River property, sponsored jointly by SMAS and Historic Sotterley. Bald Eagles, migrant songbirds and lingering meadowlarks and sparrows can be found via Sotterley's trails and river views. Directions: From Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road; turn right through gates to the visitors' center parking lot. Easy walking and very gentle slopes. Contact Dean

Newman dnewman.somdaudubon@gmail.com

September 27 - SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Point Lookout State Park, St. Mary's County 11175 Point Lookout Road, Scotland, MD 20687

“MIGRATION ON THE POINT”

Leader: Tyler Bell

Join us at one of Southern Maryland's birding hotspots as fall migrants funnel south to cross the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. Loblolly pines, mixed hardwoods, beaches, marshes and broad water views regularly deliver a wide variety of species and occasional rarities. From Lexington Park drive south on Rte. 235 for 13 miles. Go left on Rte. 5 for 0.7 miles then left into the Ridge Post Office parking lot. We will arrange carpooling from there. Pt. Lookout State Park is a fee area. Bathroom facilities available. Flat, easy terrain. Mosquitos can be problematic, so bring bug spray. Sunscreen recommended. Maximum of 15 participants. RSVP to Tyler at jtylerbell@yahoo.com or 301-862-4623.

Upcoming Events, continued

October 1 - WEDNESDAY – 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

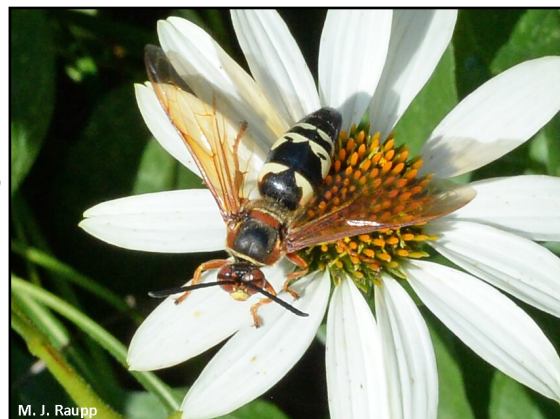
MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM – ZOOM MEETING

“YOU CAN AID AND ABET MOTHER NATURE'S HIT-SQUAD TO KEEP INSECT PESTS AT BAY ”

Speaker: Dr. Michael J. Raupp, aka The Bug Guy!

Bio: A Professor Emeritus and Extension Specialist at the University of Maryland, Mike is a Fellow of the Entomological Society of America.

Description: Your landscape and garden can be a refuge for beneficial insects that provide the vital ecosystem service of biological control, the natural system of putting a beatdown on plant-damaging pests. Meet wicked wasps, bodacious beetles, fierce flies, and other arthropod allies as they provide vital functions and enhance the sustainability of landscapes and gardens. Learn simple steps to enhance the abundance and contributions of beneficial insects and ways to conserve them in gardens. Explore organic approaches to managing key insect and mite pests including the use of ORMI (Organic Materials Review Institute) listed insecticides.



Cicada Killer *Sphecius speciosus*

Photo by Michael J. Raupp

October 11 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (rain date Sunday, October 12)

FIELD TRIP

Chapman State Park – Mt. Aventine Historic Mansion

3452 Ferry Place, Indian Head, MD 20640

“A LAZY BIRD WALK FOR LATE MIGRANTS”

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler, Pam Brumbley

Bring your eyes, ears and lazy bones as we leisurely walk along the road and trails of Chapmans State Park, one of Charles County’s birding “Hot Spots”. This officially designated Important Bird Area offers biodiversity of great significance and interest, as well as beauty. Maximum 12 participants. Difficulty level low – medium. RSVP to Lynne at 301-751-8097 at somdaudubon@yahoo.com.

October 25 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

FIELD TRIP

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, Calvert County

10515 Mackall Rd, St Leonard, MD 20685

“FALL BIRDING AT JPPM”

Leader: PHIN ROULAND

Experience Fall birding at this wonderful location which provides great bird diversity as well as paved trails with little elevation change through open fields, wooded areas, and river front. Recent arrivals could include Hermit Thrush, kinglet, nuthatch, finch species, and Brown Creeper and perhaps duck and waterfowl species moving south along the waterway. When done birding, we recommend you check out this large park with archaeological sites and historical exhibits, plus trails and an Indian village. Meet at the visitor center/museum parking lot. RSVP to Phin Rouland at phin.rouland@gmail.com

October 26 – SUNDAY – 2:00 pm

Native Gateway Garden at Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Gardens

21737 S. Coral Dr., Lexington Park, MD

Native Gateway Garden Dedication & Bay-Wise Program Certification

Join us for the official dedication of our Gateway Native garden and celebrate the [University of Maryland Extension Bay-Wise Program](#) certification. The native learning garden was funded by a grant from the National Audubon Society and supported by 11 community partners. The celebration will be part of the Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Gardens Harvest Festival from 1-4 p.m. The Southern Maryland Audubon Society will have crafts for kids and native garden info.

Upcoming Events, continued

November 1 – SATURDAY – 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

WORKSHOP

“SEED-SAVING SMARTS WORKSHOP – HOW TO HARVEST AND SAVE NATIVE PLANT SEED”

Leonardtown Library, Rooms 1 & 2, 23260 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Presenter: Molly Moore

Leonardtown Library in Makerspace, Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown, MD 23630

Learn the tricks for collecting, cleaning, and storing native plant seeds for your home garden or to share!

Harvesting your own seeds saves you money and gives you more variety in your garden. Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Molly Moore, of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society, will teach you the difference between shakers, beaks, coneheads, and more, and will guide you in cleaning and packaging seeds to take home. We welcome beginners as well as experienced seed collectors. We will also package the seeds we prepare for the library’s free seed library. After the presentation, we will step outside to the library’s Front Yard Garden to practice your new skills! In the event of inclement weather, samples of native plants will be available for practice indoors. This workshop may qualify for continuing education hours for Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists and other University of Maryland Extension programs. Register here: <https://stmalib.libnet.info/event/14408715?registration=true>

November 5 - WEDNESDAY – 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM – ZOOM MEETING

“RAPTORQUEST, CHASING AMERICA’S RAPTORS”

Speaker: Scott Harris

BIO: Wildlife Photographer, Author, and Speaker

Description: Scott Harris will have a presentation based on my new book—*RaptorQuest, Chasing America’s Raptors*—which is about Scott’s journey to find all 53 of the Raptors that call the Lower 48 states home. He found all 53, along with a Bat Falcon, a Steller’s Sea-Eagle and a Eurasian Eagle-Owl. The book is filled with stories about each bird and dozens of color photographs. It took him 17 months and more than 100,000 miles of travel across 34 states. In his presentation, he shares his adventures, misadventures, successes and failures. From 36-degree days, to one over 100, to getting stuck in the mud, to barely missing a bird, to arriving just in time. It’s about the Raptors, of course, but it’s also about the people he met, the things he learned and why he’s already in the middle of my next big birding adventure.

November 8 – SATURDAY – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

WORKSHOP

“SEED-SAVING SMARTS WORKSHOP – HOW TO HARVEST AND SAVE NATIVE PLANT SEED”

Lexington Park Library Meeting Room A, 21677 FDR Blvd., Lexington Park, MD 20653

Presenter: Molly Moore

Learn the tricks of the trade for collecting, cleaning, and storing native plant seeds for your home garden or to share!

Harvesting your own seeds saves you money and gives you more variety in your garden. Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Molly Moore, of SMAS, will teach you the difference between shakers, beaks, coneheads, and more, and will guide you in cleaning and packaging seeds to take home. We welcome beginners as well as experienced seed collectors. After the presentation, we will head to the Lexington Manor Passive Park Gateway Native Garden to practice your new skills! In the event of inclement weather, samples of native plants will be available for practice indoors. This program is made possible with support from SMAS, University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener Program and the LMPP Community Garden. This workshop may qualify for continuing education hours for Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists and other UME programs. Register to receive a reminder email; walk-ins welcome:

<https://stmalib.libnet.info/event/13928365>



Steller’s Sea-Eagle near Cavendish, Newfoundland, Canada, August 2025

Photo by Lukasz Kraskowski

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/305438278>

Welcome, New Members!

Linda Bannister, North Beach
Nancy Blush, Prince Frederick
Bryce Duehring, Chaptico
Mary Ellen Fowkes, Lexington
Park
Priscilla Gantt, Waldorf
Bernard H Heath, Fort Washington

Robert W Large, Rose Haven
Rachel Lloyd, Capitol Heights
Judith Lyons, Bryans Road
Beverly Mazur, Indian Head
Mildred Garner, Hollywood
Samuel Mundy, Accokeek

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.

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

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
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.

2025—2026 Officers

President, Dean Newman - president.somdaudubon@gmail.com

Vice President, Ben Springer — ben.springer@comcast.net

Treasurer, Julie Daniel — juliemdaniel@hotmail.com

Secretary, Lynne Wheeler — comstockel@aol.com



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: _____

Southern Maryland Audubon Society

Carole Schnitzler

3595 Silk Tree Court, Waldorf, MD 20602