

The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

President's Perch

World Migratory Bird Day/October Big Day – October 11



Monarch
Photo by Bill Hubick

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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

Southern Marylanders LOVE October! Monarchs are migrating, blue crabs are still being caught, steamed, and cracked, oysters are being tonged, shucked, and slurped, Rockfish are feeding aggressively (Rocktober!) - and best of all for us bird lovers - fall migration!

What a great time to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) – a global campaign to unite people in a common goal to protect migratory birds and their journeys across borders. WMBD is celebrated twice a year – in May and October - and reflects the cyclical nature of bird migration and the varying peak periods in the northern and southern hemispheres. The Southern Maryland Audubon Society promotes WMBD every spring and fall, educating everyone about this great initiative; how do we do this? We partner with our friends that also care about the challenges that birds face, such as the Town of La Plata - our FIRST Bird City Maryland. This year's theme for WMBD is "Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities". It encourages global and local action with energy and purpose, raises awareness on the threats birds face, and inspires hope to drive change to create a world where both birds and people thrive together.

We have other partners too, such as the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP), with whom we have partnered on initiatives such as Bird City Maryland and the Eagle Nest Monitoring Program. We are in discussion hoping to assist them with supporting our Important Bird Areas – and who knows – maybe some new ones! Check out the events section for our October 11th field trip at Chapman State Park, Historic Mount Aventine. I am so excited, we have planned a bird walk lead by SMAS (board members Pam Brumbley and me -Lynne Wheeler), and have combined the event with what eBird.org calls an October Big Day (also known as a Big Sit). This is where birders sit in one spot (circle) and watch birds, in this case, on the back porch of the Historic Mount Aventine, overlooking a fabulous view of fields, woods, and the Potomac River. Margaret Poethig, board member of MBCP, is excited to lead the Big Sit. Birders who attend can join in for easy bird walks, the Big Sit, or both.

Partnerships bring it all together, and that is what the Southern Maryland Audubon Society wants to focus on. We are not alone in spreading the love of bird watching and have the same shared goal to protect them in our challenging environment.

We should not forget our other like-minded friends we hope to partner with such as the Calvert Nature Society, the Maryland Ornithological Society, Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay, Port Tobacco River Conservancy, our local state and county parks, land trusts, nature festivals, and heritage sites. Have your binoculars ready. We are organizing now with our partners as we spread our wings and share the love of birds. After all, it is all about the birds.

Lynne Wheeler
Interim President
Southern Maryland Audubon Society

August In Western North Dakota

by Tyler Bell

My wife, Jane Kostenko, and I usually visit her family in North Dakota at least once a year. Since there was a family wedding in Savannah, Georgia, in April, we only planned one visit this year. Since her one sister's family runs a farm in the western part of the state, you just never know what the timing is and how it might affect a trip. This time, we hit it right and there really wasn't much going on as the wheat hadn't matured enough to combine. Our free time for birding is often limited but this time, an outing on Lake Sakakawea on their pontoon boat was planned, weather pending.

Part of our outing included a trip to the casino. On senior day, you get a free lunch and some money loaded to your player card. The "money" didn't last long so we had lunch then decided to walk some of the calories off with a scenic hike across the Four Bears Bridge. Without realizing it, I heard a semi-familiar song on the opposite side of the bridge. A Lazuli Bunting was singing. We had seen these lovely birds at the in-laws' brother's ranch years ago but this was an eBird lifer.

We got the boat in the water with little effort and loaded everyone and coolers of food and drinks. The in-laws had been out on the boat a few weeks earlier and had seen an adult Bald Eagle land in a tree near a beach where they intended to drop anchor and walk the rocky beach. As we approached the shore, you could clearly see the bald head of one of the eagles sitting in a large cottonwood tree. The empty nest was below it by about six feet. Probably not coincidentally, an adult and a first-year juvenile bird had flown overhead shortly after we left the dock. Presumably all from this same nesting pair! Bald Eagle was a long overdue Mountrail County life bird for us.

While the grand-nieces were swimming, I took a stroll down the beach to investigate some small, shrill terns. There ended up being three Least Terns diving for bait fish. Another county lifer!

On the return trip to the boat ramp, we passed a sandy spit that was covered with gulls and terns. We've pretty much exhausted all of the low hanging fruit in that area but a quick scan yielded several Caspian Terns, Forster's Terns, and Common Terns. Common Tern was another overdue county lifer.

Finally, back at the farm, a hummingbird buzzed by the empty feeder. I cleaned it and refilled it and within minutes, three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were fighting for turns drinking. Many years ago, an odd hummer had showed up there and it turned out to be North Dakota's first Broad-tailed Hummingbird. That far west in ND, any hummingbird in late summer and certainly September or October have a good chance of being something rare.

So, without really trying, we netted a handful of county life birds. We're up to 189 species in Mountrail County so with luck, in a few years, maybe we'll hit 200!



Bald Eagle, top, photo by David Rein
Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, bottom, photo by Gail Deterra



27th ANNUAL WINTER FINCH FORECAST

2025-2026

by Tyler Hoar

FINCH RESEARCH NETWORK



GENERAL FORECAST

It looks to be a flight year for many species in Eastern Canada. With mostly very poor crops in the boreal forest from central Quebec westward to Manitoba, this has the potential of being the biggest flight year since 2020-2021.

In these very poor crop areas in the eastern boreal, significant food source species such as White Spruce, Tamarack and White Birch have a total absence of any new crop over large areas. The almost regularly dependent food sources, like Black Spruce and alders, are below average within these same areas. A very early movement of a small but widespread flight of Redpolls in eastern Canada is pointing to a possible poor seed crop in Northern Quebec and Labrador.

There are two areas with significant cone crops. The first area is from the Adirondack mountains in New York, east through New England, Gaspé Quebec, and the Maritime provinces to southern Newfoundland, where there is a widespread above-average cone crop this year. The second area, from Northeastern Manitoba through the Northwest Territories into parts of Alaska and southward into the mountains of Western Canada and United States, also has a widespread above-average multi-species food crop.

Spruce Budworm outbreaks from Manitoba eastward were widespread this summer, providing ample food sources to Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins and Purple Finches as well as the “budworm warblers” during the breeding season. Purple Finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches have been moving south in numbers since mid-August.

INDIVIDUAL FORECASTS

Forecasts apply mainly to Ontario and adjacent provinces and states. Three irruptive non-finch passerines whose movements are often linked to finches are also discussed. Follow finch wanderings this fall and winter on eBird, the Finch Research Network and the Finches, Irruptions and Mast Crops Facebook group for more information.

Purple Finch

Most Purple Finches will migrate south out of Eastern Canada this winter with some making it to the deep southern States. Reports of early movement have been occurring for weeks. Many young finches benefited from the ample food source provided by the widespread spruce budworm outbreaks, and this led to them moving in search of food weeks ago. At feeders, they prefer black oil sunflower seeds. Away from feeders, this species is known to feed on lilac, ash, and other deciduous seeds during the winter.



Male Purple Finch photo by Mark Peck

Redpolls

Expect a probable strong flight south out of the boreal forest east of Lake Superior southward into the lower great lakes, eastward through northern New York, New England and the Maritime provinces. Many of the Redpolls coming out of the central-western subarctic/arctic regions should gravitate toward the Manitoba westward cone crop. The early and widespread but not unprecedented flight into Northern Ontario eastward to Newfoundland this August is pointing towards a more widespread crop failure of birches and Alders in Northern Quebec. The very poor crop to complete absence of the White Birch and Tamarack crop in areas from Manitoba eastward to central Quebec, plus the below-average alder and swamp birch crops, should force the majority of the redpolls southward once snow covers the weedy fields in the boreal.

Watch for redpolls on birches (including in urban area), in weedy fields and at bird feeders offering nyjer® and black oil sunflower seeds.

In 2024, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll and the Lesser Redpoll in Europe have all been lumped into the same species, now called Redpoll. Genetic work found that a supergene was responsible for the Redpoll plumage differences.

Watch for “Hoaries” in flocks of “Common” Redpolls. See the link below for photos and identification marks of the Redpoll subspecies.

See Forecast, continued on page 4.

Forecast, continued.

Evening Grosbeaks

Like the other budworm-loving finches, Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in these areas, rearing families on this abundant food source. Food sources used post-budworm, like cherry species, ash, and mountain ash, had poor crops over widespread areas. There should be a moderate flight of Evening Grosbeaks southward this fall. Depending on the direction and timing when Evening Grosbeaks come out of the boreal forest, some flocks may winter further south of their usual areas. The eastern cone crop area should hold wintering flocks in southern Quebec, the Maritime provinces, New England states, and New York this winter. A few birds likely make it to Pennsylvania and perhaps the higher elevations of the Mid-Atlantic States as well.

Evening Grosbeaks in northwestern Ontario should move out of the boreal forest and look for feeders in towns or other suitable food sources.

At platform feeders, Evening Grosbeaks prefer black oil sunflower seeds. Evening Grosbeaks will look away from feeders for maple and ash trees still holding seeds. See the links section below for Evening Grosbeak call types eBird article, and The Evening Grosbeak Road to Recovery Project.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

This species has been irrupting south since mid-August and continues to irrupt. Individuals have made it as far as the Alabama Gulf Coast. With poor cone crops in the eastern boreal forest, expect this species to continue to move southward. At feeders, this species prefers black oil seeds, suet, and peanuts.



Male Evening Grosbeak photo by David Turgeon



Red-breasted Nuthatch photo by Paul Jones

To read the complete article, please click on this link:

<https://finchnetwork.org/winter-finch-forecast-2025-2026>



Male Pine Grosbeak, left, Redpoll, right,
photos by David Turgeon

Pt. Lookout State Park Trip

Report, sort of

by Tyler Bell

My field trips are plagued by bad weather. Winter trips in bitter cold with biting wind. Once, a tree fell on our house the night before and I had to get someone else to lead for me. Hurricanes and tropical systems seem to be common. On this trip, on September 27, it was rain. The worst part of this was trying to determine whether the rain was going to be bad enough. My wife and I discussed this for days when the forecast went back and forth. Finally, just before 6 am on the 27th, I cancelled the trip. There was a window of an hour or so that would have been near the start where it wasn't raining then it went downhill from there.



It's unfortunate because rainy weather during migration often means the migrants get backed up, especially when they can't see across the Potomac River so they get trapped at the bottom of the funnel at the point, the picnic area, and the woods around the fort.

Maybe next year?

It's My Trip

An embarrassing trip report by Dean Newman

September 13th and 20th, I led two walks at Historic Sotterley and a grand total of thirty people had a great stroll in pleasant weather with NO BIRDS. I spoke with Ben Springer who, at the time, was sitting at Newtowne Neck State Park and he said migrating warblers, Northern Flickers and lots of "un-identifiables" were covering him up! I called another friend up at Flag Ponds State Park and migrants were "dripping" from the trees. At Sotterley—crickets. Merlin Bird ID app was a flat line. It was so bad, Steve Arthur put his camera down.

I'm reminded of the fellow who entered his neutered alley cat in the CFA International Cat Show. When the judges came around, seeing the scruffy mess he'd entered, they castigated him—the man not the cat. The only response the man had was, "I knew he couldn't win but I thought the exposure might do him good." I'm beginning to think that's why wonderful, charitable, loving people turn out time after time for my walks, knowing my history. They are viewing me like the dedicated parishioner in a Baptist Church views the stumbling, disconnected substitute when the lead pastor is on vacation. They have to think, "The poor guy needs encouragement. Eventually, he'll get to be a Tyler Bell or a Phin Rouland—but, for now, we just need to support him and hope his learning curve gets steeper."

Just once, I'd love to show those "hot shots" that I too can water people's eyes with numbers of birds, that I could awe the crowd with rare sightings—they would sing my praises as a "bird whisperer". Oh, that would be rarified air but it's not to be. I'm forever cursed as the guy who, "tries hard", "gives it all he's got", "has a great personality" but, under their breath I can hear them say, "Does he even know what a bird is?"

Dear friends, I'm going to re-title my field trips and call them, "Social Walks with Binoculars". I'm the leader, I can do that! Then, you wonderful people who show up time after time will know what you're getting. I'll tell great stories, pick scenic places, even entertain your kids and you'll go home thinking, "Wow, what a wonderful experience!" Following that, I know every great breakfast nook in three counties. After you've heard all my stories and your kids are tired, we'll adjourn there and your day will be fulfilled—not a mention, not a breath of reference to anything with feathers save the chicken-fried steak on the menu. Stick that in your pipe and smoke it, hotshots!!

Hog Island Experience

Story and photos by teen scholarship awardee Isabelle Locco
bizzyzzy4258@gmail.com

My experience at Hog Island was incredibly eye opening and life changing, in more ways than one. From the first day arriving, I knew this was unlike any other camp I have been to. We truly learned to not only connect to nature, but to ourselves, with no screens or distractions.

As soon as we arrived, the immense beauty, calm, and rawness of Borestone Mountain overtook my senses. We hiked, learned, and simply took in our amazing surroundings. Throughout my entire trip, we learned so much wildlife biology knowledge as well as general wisdom. Beyond simply birding, which we did a lot of, we learned about everything from the geology of the rocks we were standing on over time, to the different types of lichens growing on each rock, and whether or not they contain nutrients.

We learned the history of not only Hog Island but Borestone. The emphasis on Native American history especially was unique, as many forget and disregard their importance. This trip reminded me that everything is connected. Something which truly stuck with me is the impact of the Natives of Hog Island, The People of the Dawn, on the environment, and in turn the impact of the environment on them. We learned of the shell mounds created by Natives whilst foraging for food (snails), taking up entire areas of the island. Over time, these mounds were buried, with their high calcium and nitrogen levels changing the soil chemistry, and creating the perfect environment for milkweed to grow. Today, Natives use these same milkweeds for a multitude of purposes, for anything from medicine to clothing. This story moved me, reminding me that everything is connected, and what once was useful can become useful again. The beauty of Hog Island went beyond simple vanity, it was in the community and lifelong knowledge which I gained there.

The namesake, Atlantic Puffins, and The Puffin Project were of course a stand out. Not only the use of puffins to get people interested in birds, but just how adorable and fascinating they are. On our trip out to Eastern Egg Rock, we observed not only puffins but hundreds of birds flocking the island. It was absolutely a sight to behold, and I have never seen that many birds in my life. The people who work there love what they do and you can feel it deeply. The colorful array of knowledge is immeasurable. We experienced so much, from searching for moths at night (see [Banded/Sycamore Tussock Moth, *Halysidota* sp. photo](#), right), to early morning bird walks, to exploring the tides, to creating our own bird decoys, and so much more. It would be impossible for me to recount every detail of my trip, yet the impact of it will last a lifetime.



Upcoming Events

**October 11 – SATURDAY –
7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.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 AND SIT FOR LATE MIGRANTS – AND WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY BIG SIT”

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler,
Pam Brumbley - SMAS, and
Margaret Poethig – Board of
Directors, Maryland Bird
Conservation Partnership.

Bring your eyes, ears and lazy
bones as we leisurely walk
along the road and trails of
Chapmans State Park, one of
our Charles County birding

“Hot Spots”. This officially designated Important Bird Area offers biodiversity of great significance and interest, as well as beauty. We are excited to have our partner, the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership, join us as we enjoy a bird walk and a Big Sit (October Big Day), recognizing World Migratory Bird Day October 11 Fall Migration. You can participate in both activities, or either, and leave when you are ready. The bird walk will be from 8 am – 11 am. Difficulty level low – medium. Gate will open at 7 a.m., the Big Sit will start at 8 a.m. Drive all the way the Mount Aventine Mansion, parking at the left field prior to the house. Clean porta-potty onsite. 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 checkout this large park with archaeological sites & 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

“A LAZY BIRD WALK AND SIT FOR LATE MIGRANTS”

This birding event has it all!

When two organizations partner and share their love and knowledge of birds at a fabulous habitat you need to fly in and join!

Join us Saturday, October 11th from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Chapman State Park Historic Mount Aventine
3452 Ferry Place, Indian Head, MD 20640

We are providing you a choice! You can join Southern MD Audubon Society for a bird walk from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. AND/OR sit with our partner the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) Margaret Poethig and participate in an October Big Day Big Sit, sitting on the back porch of the mansion. You can do whatever works for you! Walk and Leave, Walk and Sit, Just Walk, Just Sit. This will be a fun and lazy event! Just come and enjoy this gorgeous habitat and birds! Gate will open at 7 a.m. so you will be able to drive in to Mount Aventine.

RSVP to Lynne Wheeler and Pam Brumbley at somdaudubon@yahoo.com

Chapman State Forest is an Important Bird Area that offers a rare ecologically important habitat of Shell-Marl Forest and is part of the Old Growth Forest Network. One of our favorite places to bird.

View from the back porch overlooking the Potomac River

Upcoming Events, continued

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

Scott Harris will have a presentation based on his 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 just arriving 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. **A zoom link to attend this meeting will be sent to all you have signed up for our Osprey newsletter.**



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

Photo by Lukasz Kraskowski

[https://www.inaturalist.org/
observations/305438278](https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/305438278)

December 3 - WEDNESDAY – 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM – ZOOM MEETING

“OWLSOME OWLS IN MARYLAND”

Speaker: Kerry Wixted

BIO: Biologist and Educator; Amphibian, Reptile, and Invasive Species Program Manager, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Contact information: email kwixted0@gmail.com

Description: Kerry Wixted will present owls as the magnificent birds they are with their own specialized adaptations. Explore the wonderful world of owls including their adaptations, species you can find in Maryland, and how to support them in the landscape. **A zoom link to attend this meeting will be sent to all you have signed up for our Osprey newsletter.**

126th Christmas Bird Count

Southern Maryland Circles

Contact the coordinator listed below to volunteer to count birds. For more information about Christmas Bird Counts see <https://www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count>

Point Lookout: December 21 – Sunday

Compiler: Bob Boxwell, 410-231-1251 or robertboxwell1@outlook.com

Port Tobacco: December 14 – Sunday

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

Patuxent River: December 27 – Saturday

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

Ft Belvoir, Maryland Shoreline: January 4 – Sunday

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

Bob Lukinic, 301-283-6317 or rdlukinic@gmail.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

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 somdaudubon@yahoo.com for more information about volunteering with SMAS.



JOIN THE FLOCK!

Ross's and Snow Geese

Photo by Mick Thompson

Welcome, New Members!

Kate Fleeger, California
Marilynn F Fulcher, Lusby
Cory Guernsey, California
Wanda Hassler, Saint Leonard
Natalie Kallas, Cheltenham
Margaret MacDonald, La Plata
Kelly Minton, Callaway
Joanne Moffett, Waldorf
Scott Nelson, Chesapeake Beach

Karl Owen, Dunkirk
David L Peterson, La Plata
Elizabeth Phelps, Chesapeake Beach
Andrew Reece, Brandywine
Sharon Shifflett, Lusby
Margaret Stevenson, Chesapeake Beach
Mildred Sunderland, California

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: _____

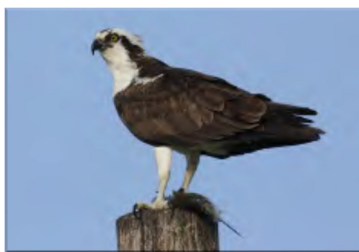
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

☐ 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

Interim President, Lynne Wheeler — somdaudubon@yahoo.com

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

Treasurer, Julie Daniel — juliemdanield@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: _____

Southern Maryland Audubon Society

Carole Schnitzler

3595 Silk Tree Court, Waldorf, MD 20602