

The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

President's Perch

Mad for March



Mad Osprey
Photo by Mike Hillman

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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

It's been a mad, mad world and frankly I don't think I am the only one disheartened. I will not belabor the concerns around us, but instead focus on that it is important to be engaged in the events around us, yet also stay mentally healthy. This can be a big challenge. Naturally, I am going to recommend getting out in nature and communing with birds!

Many of us are bouncing off the walls by now, mad for spring! Before we know it, March 20 will come, and thank goodness spring will officially be here (March 20!). Even as we wait for the warmer days and the excitement of spring migration, much bird activity is occurring around us. Bald Eagles and Great Horned Owls are nesting and will have hatchlings this month. Hopefully many of you have been enjoying the Port Tobacco River Park nest cam, and have jumped in to participate with the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership's (one of our partners) Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Program. Now is the time prior to the trees leafing out to find Bald Eagle nests. Sign up to be a monitor of a nest(s), they only ask for three reports during nest season. Engage!

And, while you are looking up for a nest, keep your eyes peeled for the return of our Ospreys. The mad interaction between a Bald Eagle and Osprey battling over fish is a type of madness I can handle. Speaking of fish and Osprey...check out under our Events section Saturday, March 28 "March on the Mattawoman", held at Smallwood State Park. This event promotes fishing (especially catching invasive fish such as Blue Catfish, Flathead Catfish, and Chesapeake Channa) and to welcome back the Osprey. Note: SMAS helped Smallwood State Park finance an Osprey nest cam. Check it out! SMAS will have a table with information about this wonderful fish-eating bird of prey, as well as a spotting scope to observe one of the numerous Osprey nests at the park, and a youth activity. Registration is required.

Now is also a good time to clean out your bird boxes or install new ones. Eastern Bluebirds and others will start to check them out soon, on the hunt for potential nest locations.

So, as we move out of the cold of winter, and into the beauty of spring, please remember to come out and enjoy the many field trips and lecture programs we have worked hard to provide for our members. Join us! Let's share in our madness for birds.

Engage but Smile 😊

Lynne Wheeler
Interim President

Pt. Lookout CBC, December 21, 2025

by Tyler Bell

The weather was mostly cooperative with temperatures ranging from 41°F to 50°F. But, the wind blew upwards of 15 mph making waterfowl counting difficult. With an overall tally of only 82 species and 3 spp., and only 6895 individual birds, this was one of the lowest counts. Typically, the Pt. Lookout count species total is closer to 100.

But, let's look at the positive sides of the count! Matt Ichniowski had found a Common Eider and a Lark Sparrow at Pt. Lookout State Park prior to the count. Both birds continued into count week then were relocated on the count day by Matt Ichniowski and Zach Stickney! They were new species for the count circle. Adding one new species is uncommon but two is unprecedented.

My sector of the count, the Elms Beaches area, had the only American Black Ducks, and Eastern Towhees, a species reliable near the wooden platform overlooking the pond at the Elms Environmental Education Center.

Jim and Bob Boxwell had the only Killdeer which is odd as they are not that hard to find with all of the agricultural land in the count circle. They also had the only Fish Crow, a species super common in the spring and summer but oddly scarce in southern Maryland in the winter.

Matt Ichniowski and Zach Stickney had the only American Woodcock, Great Horned Owl, Winter Wren, Sedge Wren, and Orange-crowned Warbler, as well as the Common Eider and Lark Sparrow.

Phin Rouland had the only Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Purple Finch. Kudos to Phin for toughing it out when he was under the weather.

John and Shirley Gasper tallied the only Chipping Sparrows. Again, super common in the spring and summer but oddly absent in the winter.

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/449089>



Common Eider
Pt. Lookout State Park, January 2, 2026
Photo by Phin Rouland



Lark Sparrow
Pt. Lookout State Park, December 24, 2025
Photo by J.B. Churchill

Ft. Belvoir 126th Christmas Bird Count, January 4, 2026

by Lynne Wheeler

The Ft. Belvoir, Virginia CBC circle extends across the Potomac River from Virginia to the Maryland shoreline, the northern end at Piscataway Creek/Accokey area, the southern end to Indian Head. Luke Holian is the circle compiler (Welcome, Luke! This was his first year as a compiler.), Bob Lukinic and I coordinate volunteers for the Maryland shoreline. Bob and his spouse Dottie host our fabulous tally rally dinner after the count, and it is a real treat. I have not received a final report yet from Luke, this is my review of the Maryland shoreline in comparison to data from the previous nine years.

A big thanks go out to our 23 participants. The theme for this year's World Migratory Bird Day states: Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter. How did it go this year? Luckily our weather was better than last year. Our temperature range was a low of 29, high of 32, and the winds a low of 4 mph, and the creeks had minimal ice. Thank goodness!

Highlights from this year include: We had an all-time high of 21,357 Total Birds, average is 10,787 – we had a “plague” of Common Grackles this year, 12,316 counted, average is 1,543. Huge numbers came from the Marshall Hall, Indian Head, and Accokeek area. Unfortunately, while our Total Birds was high, our Total Species was a bit low. This year's Total Species was 74, average is 81. Most of this is attributed to lack of waterfowl diversity on the Mattawoman Creek. We reported high numbers of Canada Geese, Mallards, and Black Duck, but got skunked on Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail American Green-winged Teal, Red-necked Duck, Canvasback, and Scaup species. It will be interesting to see what this season's waterfowl count for the Maryland – Chesapeake region will show.

Other observations that jumped out was our all-time high for Bald Eagles, Total BAEAs was 63, average is 42. It was comprised of 42 Adults, 21 Immatures. Another species that had significant increase was Ring-billed Gulls, this year the count gave us 1,479, average is 769. Woodpecker species held their own in regard to Red-bellied, Red-heads, Yellow-bellied, Pileated, and Downy's, but a decrease for Hairy and Northern Flicker (that surprised me as it seemed Flickers were good this winter). We had a nice surprise from our volunteer Tom Seaton who observed 3 American Woodcocks at the Indian Head Rail Trail. American Robin count was high, total counted 605, average is 466. And Yellow-rumped Warblers jumped up, Total Birds 58, average is 15. Decreases came from some of our winter bird species. The White-throated Sparrows Total Birds observed was 472, average is 655, and Dark-eyed Juncos Total Birds was 184, average is 389.

And as a final note the Black Vultures took a big decrease, Total Birds observed was 40, average is 90. The Turkey Vulture showed an increase, Total Birds observed 53, average is 38. Hmmm....perhaps the Black Vulture decrease is due to Avian Influenza. Which lead me to dig a bit deeper.

If you want to join my interest, see the complete report in regard to what species have been detected positive for Avian Influenza in Maryland. Check out the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service article on Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wild Birds. My snapshot shows from 2023 – to current date for Maryland: Mallards 27, Black Vultures 20 (23), Bald Eagles 13, Canada Goose 10, and Wood Duck 9. For the complete listing of species see <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/wild-birds>

Christmas Bird Count data like this reinforces why we do what we do. Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter.

Red-flanked Bluetail at Great Falls National Park, Virginia

by Tyler Bell

On January 1, 2026, Phil Kenny, a birder from Vienna, Virginia, was walking along a trail north of the visitor center at Great Falls National Park on the Virginia side. This area isn't tremendously productive as a birding spot but on New Year's Day this year, it was! He photographed a small bird that resembles a female Eastern Bluebird. He wasn't sure what it was so sent out photos for review. It's unlikely that most of us have ever heard of a Red-flanked Bluetail much less ever thought you might see one anywhere in North America, or northern Virginia! Oddly, there was a record of one in Manchester Township, New Jersey, from December 2023 to March 2024. It's theoretically possible that they are the same bird.

Because of the proximity of Great Falls NP to the large population center of the DC area, many birders were able to see the bird already on the first day. Thanks to the wonders of the digital era, excellent photos were available within hours. The bird continued at least through February 11.

And this is where it gets weird. Typically, geopolitical boundaries are defined by straight lines or some type of geological feature. The Virginia/Maryland line doesn't run up the middle of the Potomac River, it is at the mean low water mark on the Virginia side of the river. There has been much argument about this on the various bird discussion groups as well as with eBird reviewers in Maryland mostly since the Virginia reviewers don't have any skin in the game as the bird is almost always solidly in Virginia. But, the line hugs the western shore and the bird has a tendency to make foraging loops counterclockwise from a vine covered hillside out to stands of trees hanging over the water and occasionally shoots out over the water to the north before either heading to the hillside or stopping at a small island. The island, now dubbed Bluetail Island by Maryland birders, is solidly in Maryland according to all maps.

Since this bird would be a life bird for Jane Kostenko and me, we knew it would be for Steve and Betty Arthur so we invited them along for a merry rare bird chase on Sunday, January 4. It's never a good sign when you arrive at a stakeout and the bird hasn't been seen for a while and people are strung out along the path where it has been seen. But, true to form, the bluetail magically appeared near the river. Steve saw a small bird at the top of a tree, took some photos, blew them up on the back of the camera and it was our target! Word went out quickly and people gathered to watch it before it flew off to the hillside. Again, it was skulking for about 30-40 minutes before it reappeared in the same location. This time, it flew north out over the water before curving west and hiding in the vines. Since listing is a game, I compare it to the NFL rule regarding first downs or touchdowns. If the ball breaks the plane, it counts. We were happy to be able to see the bird at all since most of the time, it hides deep in tangles. Almost all of the photos that you find on eBird show the bird partially obstructed by vines or branches.

And, on January 12, Jane and I flew to Morocco, but that's a whole different story!



Photo ©Google Earth



Red-flanked Bluetail

Photo by Steve Arthur

RARITY FOCUS:

In the past couple of years, your editors have had the chance to report in the Birding Community E-bulletin on random and surprising occurrence of Yellow-headed Caracaras found in the U.S. This species normally ranges southward from southern Central America and the southernmost Caribbean into every South American country except Chile.

This widespread and relatively nomadic raptor is common where it normally occurs, but it has been slowly expanding its range northward. Until recently, the presence of Yellow-headed Caracaras in the U.S. has been based on a few unverified or wishful reports (e.g., California and North Carolina) and then a cluster of more convincing and long-term visitors, such as in Florida and Texas.

More specifically, for virtually all of November there was a Yellow-headed Caracara that remained at Oleta River State Park in Miami-Dade, Florida, and another at Dellanera RV Park, in Galveston County, Texas.

A Yellow-headed Caracara that surprised virtually everyone, however, was an individual identified in Delaware on 19 November at the Copeland Maritime Center grounds in Wilmington. This individual was the farthest north ever found... at least so far!

Lauren Morgens, avid birder and captain of the replica tall ship Kalmar Nyckel, in the harbor, reported the bird. "This bird flew by, and I knew immediately what it was in the first millisecond. And the second millisecond, I thought 'that's absolutely impossible,'" said Morgens. She snapped a few photos of the raptor and circulated them, thus starting a rush of birders hoping to catch a glimpse of this rare visitor.

The caracara remained in the general vicinity at least through the morning of Sunday, 23 November. It wasn't always cooperative, regularly eluding birders and photographers for hours at a time or entire afternoons. Still, many birders and bird photographers eventually caught up with the bird.

There was some speculation that the Yellow-headed Caracara arrived in the Wilmington area as a result of "hitching a ride" on a ship which had possibly docked in the harbor. (One or another banana-laden ships in the harbor, recently arrived from Central America, was the usual transport vessel in this possible scenario.) But we'll probably never know for sure.

To view a number of photos by David Brown – and a short eBird report from Kim Steiniger and others - from the afternoon of November 19, see here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S285225127>

You can also find more photos taken by others here: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L55267285>



You can access all the past E-bulletins on the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) website: <http://refugeassociation.org/news/birding-bulletin/>

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The Great Backyard Bird Count



Art by Charley Harper

2026 Great Backyard Bird Count

The 2026 GBBC will take place Friday, February 13, through Monday, February 16. Please join us for the 29th annual count!

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

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

Connect to Birds, to Nature, and with Each Other

Birds are everywhere, all the time, doing fascinating things. Join us, February 13–16, 2026, when the world comes together for the love of birds.

[How to Participate](#)

Be Part of a Global Event

Watch observations roll in from around the world. Each submitted checklist becomes a glowing light on our bird sightings map. Results from 2025 are inspiring.

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

[Explore 2025 Data](#)

Showcase Your Photos from the Count

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

[Learn How to Share Photos](#)



Map Your Community Birding Event

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

[Add to the Map](#)



Woodpecker Tongues Are Exceptional

Wednesday, January 7, 2026 | Birding News 3

Have you ever imagined how long and important the tongue is to a woodpecker? The tip of this Pileated Woodpecker's tongue is actually a small portion of the entire tongue (photo by Bellemare Celline).

Few people are aware of just how important the tongue is to a woodpecker, but researchers have found that woodpeckers rely on their extraordinary tongue to thread into insect tunnels their beak can't reach. A typical woodpecker tongue is long and flexible enough to reach into crevices and tunnels to reach prey hidden deep inside. Clearly, drilling into wood with its beak is just the first step for a woodpecker to procuring food in bark, branches, trunks, and even beneath the ground. Two pairs of muscles guide the tongue, allowing it to move in and out, and in multiple directions when probing.

A woodpecker's tongue is among the longest tongues relative to body size among all bird families, and woodpeckers use their tongue with remarkable precision. When not extended, the base of the tongue wraps around the back of the skull, and in some woodpecker species, the tongue stretches all the way around the skull to the position of the right nostril.

Specialized sticky saliva on the tongue attaches to insects, larvae, or other foods on contact to procure food that might otherwise escape. The tongue tip may also have bristles or backward-facing barbs that hook insects as the tongue pulls them out of a crevice. Woodpeckers' tongues have specialized keratin tips that naturally regenerate as they become worn.

Woodpeckers are among the most diverse and interesting families of birds, numbering more than 200 different species found on 5 continents. There is so much more to learn about their fascinating adaptations, so if woodpeckers interest you, refer to the Bird Academy at the [Wonderful World of Woodpeckers](#) to look into their online woodpecker course, which is reduced in price now.

Celebrate the diversity and wonder of woodpeckers with a Free Woodpecker Poster that is beautifully illustrated and full of fun facts at [Wonderful Woodpecker Poster 02012024.pdf](#). You can download and print a copy, or keep the .pdf for reference in your personal files.

Share your birding experiences and photos at editorstbw2@gmail.com

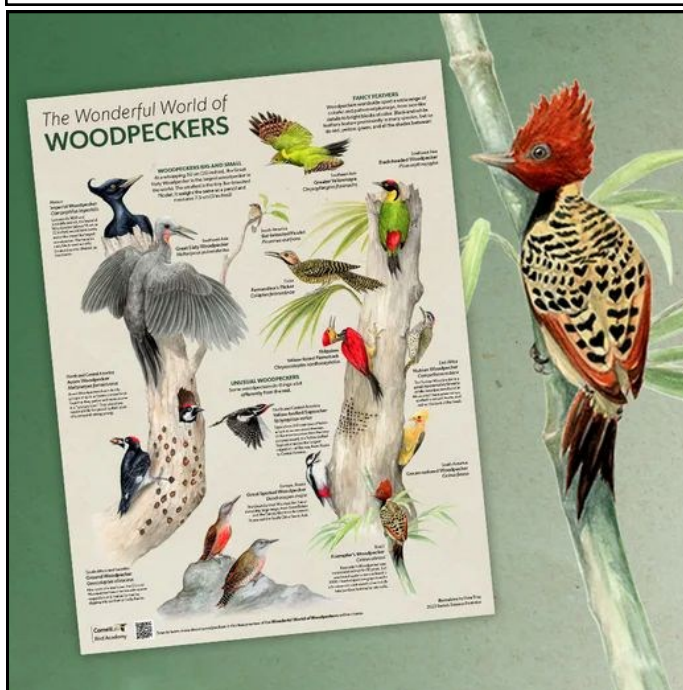
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Have you ever imagined how long and important the tongue is to a woodpecker? The tip of this Pileated Woodpecker's tongue is actually a small portion of the entire tongue (Photo by Bellemare Celline).



You can download a free Woodpecker Poster.

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

Podcast Corner

This is a great follow-up of our February 4 Monthly Zoom meeting on Frog Watch given by Matt Neff. It was Lang Elliott's book on frogs that helped me learn their songs!

Lynne Wheeler

The Music of Nature

Lang Elliott's Music of Nature podcast immerses listeners in place-based soundscapes of nature. Audio quality is phenomenal and Lang's passion for and deep knowledge of natural sounds, from birds and crickets to frogs and coyotes, is impossible to ignore. Something I especially appreciate about this podcast is that, although the narration is excellent, Lang lets the voices of nature speak for themselves. If you have even the remotest curiosity about natural sounds or the desire to transport yourself to a wild place, you'll enjoy this podcast.

Note: as of March 2024, Lang is not currently producing new episodes. Nevertheless, the existing archive is excellent.

See <https://musicofnature.com/podcast-series/>



Lang Elliott, producer of The Music of Nature.

Photo by Siobhan McClory.

Welcome, New Members!

Jill Ashley, Clinton

Elizabeth Hardison Ballot, Prince Frederick

Julian Ball, Owings

Saundra Crawford, Suitland

Hope Cooner, Brandywine

Paul V Facchina, Newburg

James W Fowler, Dunkirk

S Galler, North Beach

Lauren Gaylord, Prince Frederick

Nicola Gonzalez, California

Nancy Graf, Hollywood

Keith Harless, Lexington Park

Bryanna Herring, Leonardtown

Phillip Hamilton, Waldorf

Mary Beth Leaf, Pasadena

Florence Lellis, Lusby

Barbara Loftus, White Plains

Kristin Matheny, Lusby

Mark Michelini, Port Republic

Clemmer Montague, Fort Washington

Diana L Mills, Waldorf

Tom Gryn, Waldorf

Katy Prebble, North Beach

Rachel Roberts, Waldorf

Claudia Reber, Waldorf

Jennifer Perry, Leonardtown

Laura Schuyler, Great Mills

Paula Schiller, Marbury

The Tidewater School, Huntingtown

Edwin Sefton, Saint Leonard

Isabella Selmon, Temple Hills

Martha Shiles, Owings

Brian Wygle, Clinton

Upcoming Events

February 14 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Point Lookout State Park, St Mary's County

10444 Point Lookout Rd, Scotland, MD 20687

"SEA DUCKS AT THE POINT"

Leader: Phin Rouland

We will meet at the picnic area parking before walking to the Chesapeake Bay side of the point to scan for sea ducks including all three scoter species, Common Goldeneye, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, and Long-tailed Ducks. Other species of note could include horned grebe, two loon species, and Northern Gannet. The remainder of the time will be used walking the picnic area and trails around Fort Lincoln and could include Brown-headed Nuthatch, Pine Warbler, and Fox Sparrow. Flat but unpaved. No fee. Restrooms available. RSVP to phin.rouland@gmail.com

February 21 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (rain date Sunday 2/22)

FIELD TRIP – NEW DATE!

Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert County

10515 Mackall Road, St Leonard, MD 20685

"WINTER WATERFOWL TRIP"

Leader: Tyler Bell

Open fields, edge habitat, and wooded areas offer a variety of both resident and winter bird species. Additionally, the river frontage provides close views of waterfowl including Horned Grebe, Long-tailed Duck, Ruddy Ducks, both scaup, Common Goldeneye, and lots more! Flat with occasional hills and largely paved. No fee. Restrooms available.

Maximum of 12 participants. RSVP required to Tyler Bell for directions to the meeting spot by calling 301-862-4623 or emailing jtylerbell@yahoo.com

March 4, 2026 - WEDNESDAY – 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM – ZOOM MEETING

"FROM MOUNTAINS TO SALTMARSH – REDISCOVERING THE MOS SANCTUARIES"

Speaker: MARCIA WATSON

BIO: Marcia Watson, Maryland Ornithological Society.

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) owns ten wildlife sanctuaries, totaling almost 3,000 acres and spanning the state from Garrett County in the western part of the state, to Somerset County on the lower Eastern Shore. All of the sanctuaries are open to the public every day of the year, at no charge, and represent a microcosm of the habitats for birds in Maryland. Many people have heard of the Carey Run and Irish Grove Sanctuaries, where sanctuary houses provide an opportunity for overnight visits, but the other sanctuaries have been seldom visited. Marcia will review the history of the MOS Sanctuary Program, provide profiles and show maps and photos of all the sanctuaries, discuss the birds and habitats found there, and will cover some of the challenges that MOS faces in managing the properties. Marcia will conclude with an overview of some of the research being conducted at the sanctuaries as well as their conservation value, and why it's important to preserve these lands.

March 28 - SATURDAY – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m (Multiple Activities)

Bird Walks 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. by Lynne Wheeler

FIELD TRIP – SPECIAL STATE PARK EVENT

Smallwood State Park, Charles County

2750 Sweden Point Road, Marbury, MD 20658

"MARCH ON THE MATTAWOMAN"

Family fun! Come and welcome back our Osprey, family fishing activities, hands-on kids activities, explore the Discovery Center, food truck, demonstrations, and a bird walk. Park entrance fee \$5/vehicle. Pre-registration is required and will be shared soon when the link becomes available.

MOS Convention Solomons **CANCELLED!!!**

Update: MOS has been informed that the Solomons Inn has experienced flooding from a burst pipe. The hotel will be closing all guest rooms and will not be available for the May 15-17 MOS Convention.

MOS has chosen to cancel the May 15-17 MOS Convention in Solomons. There is not enough time, or a suitable venue, to plan and host a convention in Solomons this spring. MOS will most likely host the 78th Annual MOS Convention in a different region in Autumn 2026. MOS will share dates and information as soon as possible.

Check the convention website for more information and updates, or if you'd like to volunteer,
<https://www.mosconvention.org>

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



Southern Maryland Audubon Society

Adopt-a-Raptor

Southern Maryland Audubon Society sponsors the banding of nesting birds of prey with serially numbered aluminum bands in co-operation with the Bird Banding Laboratory of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Limited numbers of raptors to sponsor 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, American Kestrel Nest Boxes, Eastern Screech Owl Nest Boxes, and Mist Nets or Banding Supplies.*

Please indicate which raptor you wish to adopt. You may adopt more than one:

- ☐ Osprey, \$10 each
- ☐ Barn Owl, \$25 each
- ☐ General Donation to Raptor Fund

Total Amount: _____

Total Amount: _____

Amount: _____

When you adopt, 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, and a photo of a fledgling and any other available information on the whereabouts or fate of the bird.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

If this is a gift, please include the recipient's name for the certificate:

For online purchase go to: <https://www.somdaudubon.org/support-us/adopt-a-raptor/>

To purchase by check and mail via USPS, send this form to:

Carole Schnitzler, 3595 Silk Tree Court, Waldorf, MD 20602



Barn Owl photo by Stacy Howell



Southern Maryland Audubon Society Membership Application to our Local Audubon Chapter

Please enroll me as a member of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society. Southern Maryland Audubon Society is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, so 100% of your membership, renewal, or donation supports our bird conservation, education, and advocacy programs. With a chapter-only membership, ALL of your dues support Southern Maryland Audubon and our work protecting birds and the places they need to survive in Southern Maryland. To purchase online go to <https://www.somdaudubon.org/support-us/join-somd/>
Please select the type of membership from our list below:

Individual/Family: ☐ 1 year \$20 ☐ 2 year \$35 ☐ 3 year \$45
Lifetime Membership: ☐ \$500
Donation: \$ _____

To purchase by check and mail via USPS, send this form to:
Southern Maryland Audubon Society, P.O. Box 181, Bryans Road, MD 20616

Membership to the National Audubon Society

Please consider supporting the National Audubon Society by becoming a member. Your membership automatically enrolls you as a member of Southern Maryland Audubon Society. You will support their avian conservation efforts, and receive four issues of National's award-winning *Audubon* magazine. To join the National Audubon Society, go to:
<http://www.audubon.org/membership>



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

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

Treasurer, Julie Daniel — juliemdaniel@hotmail.com

Secretary, Barbara Hill — tytito@verizon.net