

# The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

## President's Perch



Great Blue Heron  
Photo by Michael Cohen

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<http://smdaudubon.org/>

Many Southern Maryland birders enjoyed observing and counting birds in Christmas Bird Counts and the Great Backyard Bird Count; next is the Maryland Ornithological Society's May Count, Saturday, May 9. Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS) members have assisted in this important and fun bird count for decades. This year's May Count dove-tails with the theme for World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter. The theme highlights the role of community science in migratory bird conservation, and notes that birdwatchers' observations help build the data needed to guide conservation actions and inform policy across borders.

This issue of the Osprey newsletter includes a list of local Maryland May Count coordinators that you can contact. PLEASE DO! Maryland birders have conducted this survey of bird populations in the state, held in the first half of May, for over five decades. By the second week in May, many of the species that nest in Maryland have returned to their breeding grounds and they are temporarily joined by an array of warblers, vireos, and other migrating species whose numbers peak around this time. More volunteers mean better coverage and accuracy. For those who are interested in participating for the first time, your county coordinator can pair you up with experienced birders who will show you the ropes. You will learn new spots to bird and might make new friends. Being part of a group is because warblers are often fast moving and forage high in the tree canopy, so many pairs of eyes are crucial. Please contact the May Count coordinator for your county for additional information or to sign up.

But wait! You can also count and/or learn about WMBD at upcoming events in which SMAS is participating. See in this newsletter our list of upcoming field trips. Check out May 2 at Clearwater Nature Center in Clinton, MD and May 9 at Piscataway Park – National Colonial Farm. Both highlight the WMBD theme, and the May 9 trip is held on the date for May Count, a perfect time to jump in with other birders and learn to observe and count.

SMAS will participate and provide Information about WMBD at the Town of La Plata Spring Festival's Keep La Plata Beautiful booth on Saturday, April 25; SMAS assists the Town as a Bird City. We will also exhibit in Nature Fest at the College of Southern Maryland's La Plata Campus on May 30. SMAS is a sponsor of Nature Fest, an event created by Georgia Bonney, executive director of the local non-profit Neighborhood Creative Arts Center. The organizations passion to provide meaningful educational activities has blossomed, and Nature Fest now provides a five-hour environmentally focused event with over 50 participating vendors, featuring live shows, food, music, and information from local nature groups, including SMAS. The theme for WMBD will be highlighted at the College of Southern Maryland – Town of La Plata Bird City/Bird Campus booth. SMAS has helped plan a youth activity where kids can check in at the booth and learn about counting birds, obtain a bird checklist, and then visit other vendor tables to "count" birds. They will also find information about specific signature bird species at each vendor table. When they finish their count they return to the Bird City/Bird Campus booth and submit their checklist to receive their reward; they earn their wings!

When we observe and count birds, we all earn our wings.  
Lynne Wheeler  
Interim President

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## The Great Blue Heron: Witness at the Water's Edge

by Sepala Weliwiti Goda

*Across the bay, a kayak split the mist.  
A heron, cloaked in cobalt reverie,  
stood still as time upon a granite stone.  
One leg tucked tight, the other poised in thought,  
its eye fixed on the glassy, dimpled tide.*

*He waited—not for fish, but for the breath  
of something deeper, surfacing at last—  
a truth too slow to rise, too sharp to flee.  
The river held its secrets just below,  
while fog returned to swaddle what we know.*

The Great Blue Heron often appears motionless in shallow water—focused, poised between patience and movement. To encounter a heron in this state is to feel the pace of solitude: space to breathe, to meditate, and to ponder thoughts and ideas carried quietly within. For a moment, the world slows, as if attention itself has been invited—or granted.

The life of the Great Blue Heron is inseparable from water. It depends on healthy wetlands—quiet shorelines, floodplains, estuaries, and shallow rivers where fish and amphibians remain abundant and waters retain ecological balance. Because of this reliance, the heron has long been regarded as an indicator of environmental health. Where herons thrive, wetlands are often functioning well. Where they disappear, the loss usually signals deeper disruption long before it becomes obvious elsewhere.

Yet the heron's significance extends beyond biology.

Across many ancient cultures, herons were regarded with reverence long before modern science provided explanations for natural systems. In Indigenous traditions across North America, herons were associated with wisdom, patience, and self-reliance; their presence often signaled abundance and the assurance of sustenance. In ancient Egypt, herons were linked to the soul and the passage between worlds. In Chinese and Japanese art, folklore, and literature, they appeared as emblems of balance, longevity, purity, and the ability to move between elements—water, earth, and air.

These traditions were not grounded in data, but in sustained observation and lived experience with the natural world. Reverence fostered social cohesion and psychological steadiness at a time when nature's uncertainty could not be explained scientifically. The heron's quiet self-reliance served as an example to individuals and families facing sickness, scarcity, and despair—particularly in the production and gathering of food.

Today, science has given us extraordinary insight into how ecosystems function and why species like the Great Blue Heron depend on ecologically sound wetlands. What science cannot compel, however, is care. No legislation or dataset can require people to notice a bird standing at the water's edge, or to feel responsibility for the habitat that sustains it. Laws can protect wetlands, but their effectiveness ultimately depends on human behavior—on attention, restraint, understanding interdependence, and a willingness to coexist thoughtfully with other forms of life.

As wetlands deteriorate through development, pollution, and climate-driven change, herons often respond quietly.

**Continued on page 4. See GBH.**

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## **GBH continued**

Their absence can speak as clearly as their presence. In this way, the Great Blue Heron becomes both witness and messenger, revealing change not through alarm, but through silence.

Perhaps what is needed now is not a return to ancient belief, but a rational reverence—a way of seeing informed by science and experience, guided by respect. Modern knowledge can explain why wetlands matter; reverence gives us reason to care. Together, they offer a framework for stewardship that serves birds, forests, waters, and people alike. To watch a Great Blue Heron fish is to observe patience as survival. Nothing holds its attention except the present moment. Nothing is rushed. In that quiet discipline lies a lesson. When we learn to notice the heron clearly, we may also begin to notice the health of our wetlands—and our own responsibilities—more honestly. Care, like balance, begins with attention.

## **Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, February 21, 2026**

by Tyler Bell

My field trips are plagued by bad weather. Hurricanes and windstorms, bitter cold and snow. In fact, this trip was re-scheduled from February 7 because the snowcrete from the January 25 storm was still blocking roads and parking lots at the park. The weather gods smiled on us finally! It was 40°F when we met near the museum and 50°F by the time we wrapped it up around noon.

To start, there were some fairly large American Holly trees in the parking lot. They were loaded with berries. There were hundreds of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings that were chowing down on them! The fields along the main road were covered with robins, too. I estimated around 500 of them but that may have been a gross underestimate. For the first hour, they were actually a nuisance bird because of the noise and they were flying all over the place.

After a loop around the museum, we drove and parked by the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab then walked down to the beach at the mouth of St. Leonard Creek. A Common Loon called its haunting tremolo and a scan of the waterfowl netted Canvasbacks, Redheads, both Lesser and Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Ducks calling “egg omelet!” from the center of the river, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, and Ruddy Ducks.

When we moved to the restricted section at the north end of the park, the pond there held Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. No Wood Ducks, though. At the end of the gravel road, there were Tundra Swans, plus American Wigeons, an uncommon species in Calvert County. When we first drove onto the gravel road, we spooked a flock of around 1000 Canada Geese. No white geese were seen mixed in as they took off. An American Kestrel played leapfrog on the power lines as we drove underneath it.

Some of our flock had to leave but the bulk of the group continued down to the Loblolly Pine forest at the end of Lloyd Bowen Road. Some of the usual suspects were not present and the Brown-headed Nuthatches were being uncooperative. I don't like to use playback but tried a recording of their song briefly. The response was immediate. Several groups began calling from all around us and a few came out in the open allowing nice views.

The combination of nice weather and good birds and natural camaraderie made this one of my favorite trips! The grand total was 46 species. Not bad for a few hours in February! To see the trip report on eBird, click on this link:

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/480656>

# ACOUSTIC RECORDER FROG PROJECT

## CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM



### HAVE YOU SEEN ME?

This acoustic recorder detects frog calls at night.

Recorders were deployed across Southern Maryland and the Northern Neck of Virginia to find rare and endangered species of frogs and toads.



**EASTERN  
SPADEFoot**



**GREEN  
TREEFROG**



**NARROW-  
MOUTHED  
TOAD**

The Chesapeake Bay Trust funded a grant to obtain six recorders and CHESPAX lent an additional four.

**11** species were found at the locations to the right. See our partnering organizations below.



**807** OBSERVATIONS  
from 2025 FrogWatch sites

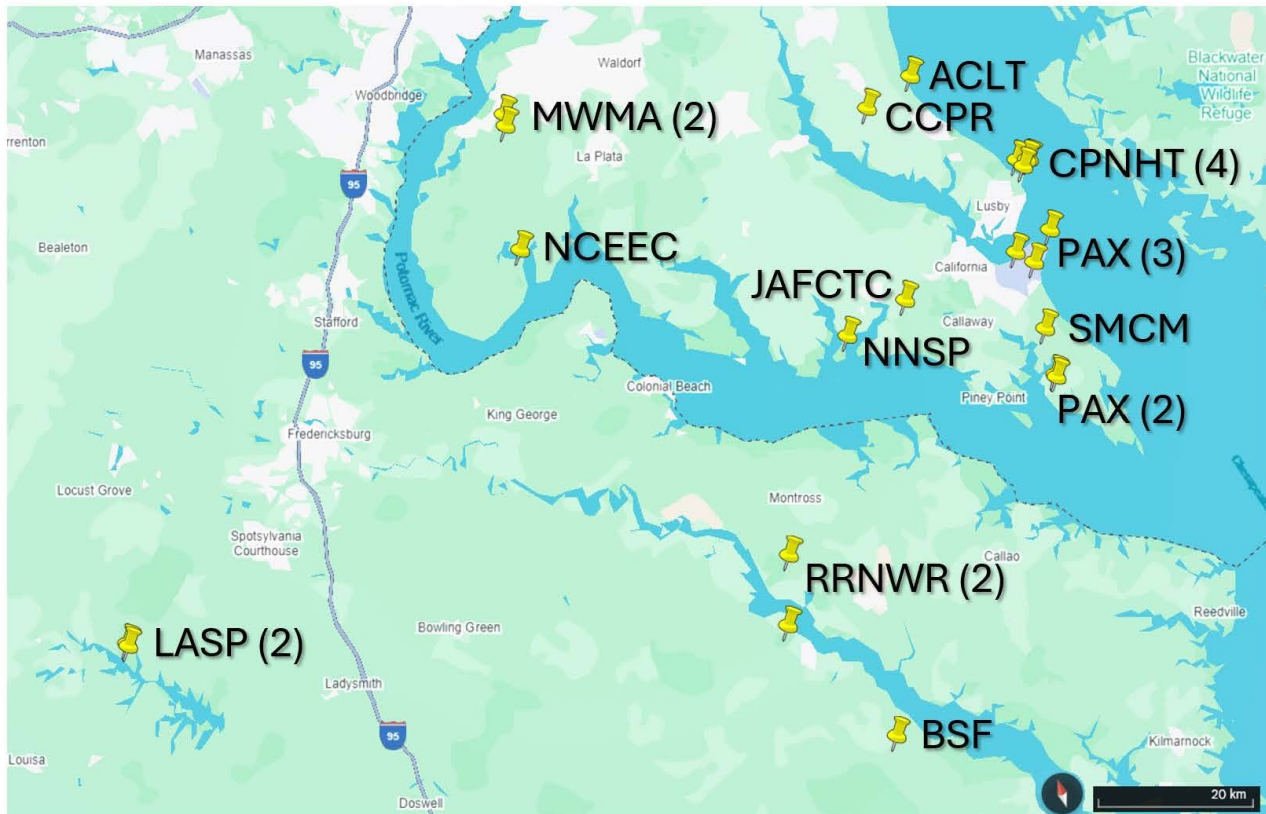
**456** ADDITIONAL  
OBSERVATIONS  
from recorders in 2025

**5,421** TOTAL  
OBSERVATIONS  
from our chapter since 2013

Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center (NCEEC), Maryland Wildlife Management Area (MWMA 1 and 2), American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT), Calvert Marine Museum (CMM), James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center (JAFCTC), St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM), Naval Air Station PAX River (PAX 1 and 2), and Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (RRNWR).



# SEE WHERE OUR RECORDERS ARE IN 2026



American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT), Calvert County Parks and Recreation (CCPR), Browne State Forest (BSF), Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust (CPNHT)(4 sites), James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center (JAFCTC), Lake Anna State Park (LASP)(2 sites), Maryland Wildlife Management Area (MWMA)(2 sites), Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center (NCEEC), Newtowne Neck State Park (NNSP), St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM), Naval Air Station PAX River (PAX)(5 sites), and Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (RRNWR)(2 sites).

## Twelve Days in Morocco, January 12-24, 2026

by Jane Kostenko and Tyler Bell

With every, “Yalla!”, we knew we were in for adventures on our 14-day guided tour of Morocco. Our Berber tour manager’s call of “Let’s go!” promised new insights into his country’s history, culture, and people.

Our trip started with a city tour of Casablanca, including Hassan II Mosque, the largest mosque in Morocco and open to non-Muslims. Though only some four decades old, the mosque is called a masterpiece of architecture, having been built largely by Moroccans, utilizing locally sourced, traditional materials.

Traveling south by wifi-enabled chartered bus, we followed the Atlantic Ocean coast onward to Essaouira. Making a short stop, our group visited a cooperative where local Moroccan women use ages-old methods to extract the oil from argan seeds from the native *Argania spinosa* tree nut. We picked up our first life bird here, a Common Bulbul, that was singing in the courtyard. This turned out to be a fairly ubiquitous bird. Moussier's Redstart, however, was a single bird at this location never to be seen (by us) elsewhere.

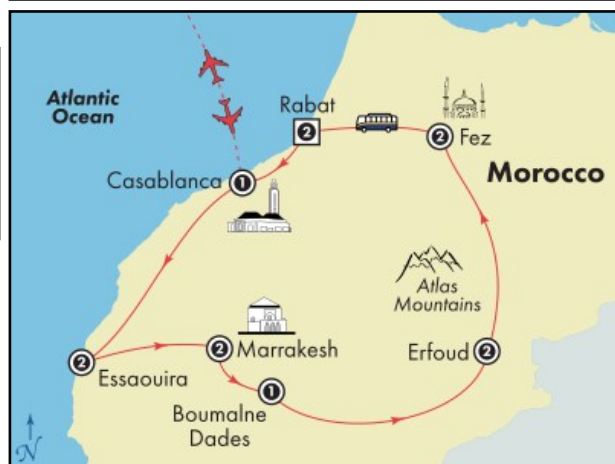
In Essaouira, we explored Skala de la Ville, an 18th century UNESCO World Heritage Site oceanfront medina--fortress and ramparts protecting the original city—which showed us the power of the raging ocean. (Future referenced UNESCO World Heritage sites denoted with \*.) Like the bulbul, the first House Bunting we saw turned out to be one of many. In fact, we sometimes saw them inside some of our hotels! Spotless Starlings were not common so it took a little work finding them where European Starlings were also present.

Next, we headed east. At a rest stop on the way to Marrakesh, we encountered our first nesting White Storks. In Turkey on our trip a year ago, the stork nests were present but the birds were absent. In Morocco, they apparently stay year-round. We also had a singing Sardinian Warbler, and a Common Chiffchaff. We thought we had encountered this species elsewhere in Europe but we have no eBird records so, voila, lifer!

Marrakesh boasts the Moorish 12th century minaret of Koutoubia

Mosque\* and dizzying, winding alleys lined with souks (market stalls) leading to Djemaa el Fna Square\*. Here, the snake charmers come out, and sights, sounds, and aromas assault your senses.

From the top: Moussier's Redstart by Tyler Bell  
House Bunting by Tyler Bell  
White Storks by Tyler Bell  
Map by Gate 1 Travel



Continued on page 6. See Morocco.

## Morocco continued

Away from the center of the city, there are green spaces. One small park near our hotel had several Maghreb Magpies. We saw them at other stops on the trip but mostly closer to the Atlantic coast and fewer further inland. As luck would have it, we got absolutely soaked just before our bus was to take us from the medina back to the hotel. On the plus side, a small flock of Little Swifts descended on the square before flying to dry safety inside the arched entrance to a museum. They were smarter than we were.

Throughout the tour, mint tea, Morocco's beloved hot beverage of choice, was served widely and with great showmanship, with wait staff pouring the steaming-hot liquid from several feet above the teacup.

January snows blocked our transit over the High Atlas Mountains. (Our tour group endured heavy mountain snows and drenching rains and takes credit for breaking Morocco's seven-year drought.) Taking a long alternate route, we reached the ksar (fortress/castle) of Ait-Ben-Haddou\* just before dark. These earthen buildings epitomize original southern Moroccan architecture and are widely recognized from Game of Thrones.

The next day, we had time to explore the dramatic Dades Valley, carved by the Dades River. These vivid red and orange gorges display yet another side of Morocco's geology, including the unique Monkey Fingers feature of limestone and sandstone.

Continuing our eastward journey on the way to Erfoud, we stopped at an astounding workshop/store where we saw tons of sedimentary matrices bursting with fossils primarily from the Cambrian and Devonian periods (approximately 500 to 360 million years ago). Trilobites, crinoids, nautilus, ammonites, and so much more, are preserved in slabs of stone. The displays and craftsmanship are truly mind-blowing! Our first of many White-crowned Wheatears was perched on top of the fossil shop. Most of our later encounters were birds perched on buildings as we drove along highways and city streets.

Driving roughly north, we now traveled into what has long been called "Useless Morocco". The Saharan Desert's undeveloped region of the country is wildly at odds with the rest of resource-rich Morocco. We visited a nomad camp, stunning in its minimalistic reality: camel skins served as walls of the huts with no electricity, but a nearby, government-managed well for water. A small drab bird came toward us at the camp. It was a Fulvous Chatterer. It seemed quite unafraid but didn't stay long. As we left the camp, a Lanner Falcon, being pursued by five or six Brown-necked Ravens, paced our vehicle.

**Morocco concluded on page 7.**



Top: Maghreb Magpie photo by Jane Kostenko

Center: White-crowned Wheatear  
photo by Tyler Bell

Bottom: Lesser Kestrel photo by Tyler Bell

## Morocco conclusion

Our first look at the red Saharan sand dunes is forever seared into our memories. After a tutorial on how to ride a camel (technically dromedaries, since they only have one hump), we broke into groups of four as our camel leaders lead us into the desert. Sunset was a brilliant splash of vibrant colors, but our day ended softly with the rocking gait of the camels.

In Fez\*, we visited one of the oldest tanneries in the world, Chouara Tannery, which has reputedly been in operation for around nine centuries. Sprigs of fresh mint to hold under noses makes viewing (and smelling) the contents of the tannery's stone vats more tolerable. While listening to our tour guide before we went into the Jewish quarter, we noted a Lesser Kestrel perched on a nearby phone pole! That night, we had our hotel room's balcony sliding door open. For two nights, we were serenaded by a Tawny Owl. We tried to find it during the day but were unsuccessful. Lastly, we drove west on our way to the final city on our tour, Rabat\*. Along the way, we walked the Roman ruins of Volubilis\*. Incredibly well-preserved architecture, especially the Triumphal Arch of Caracalla, and beautiful mosaics showing Roman mythology, were a true delight.

Sadly, the impending January snowstorm back on the home on the East Coast caused our airline to cancel our scheduled flight home; we opted to return a day early, missing the city tour of Rabat, which featured the Royal Palace and the 12th century Hassan Tower\*, plus a visit to the ruins of Chellah\*, an archaeological site dating to Phoenician and Roman times.

Despite the trip being non-birding, when the opportunities presented themselves, we had binoculars and camera ready. We ended the trip with 41 species and 15 life birds! See the trip report here: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/470233>

\*UNESCO World Heritage site



In collaboration with

 COLLEGE of SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Partners

 WILD ONES Chesapeake Bay

 BALTIMORE BIRDING SOCIETY

Save the date for NCAC's 6th annual

# Nature Fest

10 AM–3 PM | Saturday, May 30, 2026  
College of Southern Maryland, La Plata Campus

neighborhoodcreativeartscenter.org  
NCAC is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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 MSAC

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## Upcoming Events

**April 18 – SATURDAY – 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

### FIELD TRIP

**Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Calvert County**

2695 Grays Rd, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

### **“FOREST AND MEADOWS - EARLY SPRING MIGRATION”**

Leader: Ben Springer

Meadow birds and warblers – what could be better? Join Ben for a birding adventure at the farm. Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm offers great habitat for you to see a diversity of birds. Walkin: easy to moderate, slight inclines on wooded trails. Parking: meet at the small parking lot by the barn, across the road from the dog park. Maximum of 10 participants/ vehicles. See link to register:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0448A8AF2AAAF9C43-62821545-forest>

**April 18 – SATURDAY – 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival**

### SPECIAL EVENT

**Town of North Beach, Calvert County**

If you love birds, wildlife, and nature, or just want to learn more, please come out and be a part of this wonderful Festival for a great cause. It is an event for the entire family and people of all ages. See a live raptor up close, enjoy vendors on the boardwalk, meet Oscar the Osprey and get a selfie, and move through the child-focused nature activity stations, and take part in the lecture series. SMAS will have a table and we can't wait to see you! Entry fee \$10/person, \$20/family. See [marylandospreyfestival.org](http://marylandospreyfestival.org) for additional information.

**April 26 – SUNDAY – 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

### SPECIAL EVENT AND BIRD WALK

**Mallows Bay Park: Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary**

1440 Wilson Landing Rd, Nanjemoy, MD 20662

### **BIOBLOTTZ, BIRD WALK, WALK CHARLES COUNTY**

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler, Karen Kleyle, NOAA

This is a whatever floats your boat event! You can come and help document the biodiversity in the sanctuary using iNaturalist, join us for a bird walk, or get your exercise joining in for a walk led by Walk Charles County Karen Kleyle.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeX6SD7IT66Etpskp40ZOR7rZ8Y2\\_DSdfg0-z8YdGLZEaPUuQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeX6SD7IT66Etpskp40ZOR7rZ8Y2_DSdfg0-z8YdGLZEaPUuQ/viewform)

**May 2 – SATURDAY – 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

### FIELD TRIP

**Clearwater Nature Center at Louise F. Cosca Regional Park, Prince George's County**

11401 Thrift Rd, Clinton, MD 20735

### **“EVERY BIRD COUNTS – YOUR OBSERVATIONS MATTER”**

Leader(s): SMAS - Lynne Wheeler and Pam Brumbley, and a Clearwater Nature Center Naturalist

Join us as we recognize this year's World Migratory Bird Day theme: *Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter*. This bird walk's goal is to increase the number of bird species seen at Cosca Regional Park, an [eBird.org](http://eBird.org) Hotspot. Come help us add more bird species, hone up on how to identify birds, and learn the methods we use to count birds as we add to the eBird list for the park, and your own life list! Your observations matter. Meet at the nature center parking lot.

Restroom facility opens at 8:30 a.m. Maximum 20. See link to register:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4DA4A82AA2F5C34-62801579-every>

## Upcoming Events

May 6 – WEDNESDAY - 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM – ZOOM MEETING

**“50 YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE: MY LIFE IN POLITICS AND WITH AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY”**

Speaker: GEORGE WINEGRAD

Join former state Senator Winegrad in his life-long quest to explore the natural world and fight for the conservation of birds and other wildlife. His work included saving the critically endangered San Clemente Loggerhead Shrike, protecting Laysan Albatross and the Kirtland’s Warbler while convincing policymakers like President George W. Bush and Governor Schaeffer on conservation initiatives. **A zoom link to attend this meeting will be sent out prior to the meeting.**

May 9 – SATURDAY – 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

### FIELD TRIP

**Piscataway Park – National Colonial Farm, Prince Georges/Charles County**

3400 Bryan Point Rd, Accokeek, MD 20607

Leader(s): Pam Brumbley & Todd Curtis

**“WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY - EVERY BIRD COUNTS!”**

Join us as we recognize World Migratory Bird Day at Piscataway Park. This year’s theme is *Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter*, and May 9 just so happens to be our annual May Count – a day of counting birds throughout the state of Maryland. Beginner birders are welcome and encouraged to attend! Come and enjoy the beauty of the National Colonial Farm at Piscataway Park where we will explore a variety of habitats. Bird highlights will likely include Eastern Meadowlarks, Grasshopper Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks, Cedar Waxwings, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and our migratory warblers! Maximum participants 15. RSVP to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0548AFA828A4F58-62838162-world#/>

**May 9**

### SOUTHERN MARYLAND MAY COUNTS

*Calvert, Charles, Prince George’s, St. Mary’s Counties*

Help is always appreciated: backyard birders, beginners, new members. This is a great way to learn! Data and information help save our birds. This year’s May Count corresponds with the World Migratory Bird Day theme – *Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter*. **Please help count birds.**

The county coordinators for you to contact are as follows:

CALVERT: Saturday, May 9, Maggie Silverman (860-918-3858), [CalvertBirds@gmail.com](mailto:CalvertBirds@gmail.com)

CHARLES: Saturday, May 9, Lynne Wheeler (301-751-8097), [somdaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:somdaudubon@yahoo.com)

PRINCE GEORGE’S: Saturday, May 9, Dave Mozurkewich, [mozurk@verizon.net](mailto:mozurk@verizon.net)

ST. MARY’S: Saturday, May 9, Tyler Bell (301-862-4623), [jtylerbell@yahoo.com](mailto:jtylerbell@yahoo.com)





## Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival

April 18

11am – 4 pm

Town of North Beach Boardwalk



Photo by Sal Icaza

Come celebrate the return of the Osprey at this wonderful event.

The Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival is entering into their sixth year of offering nature lovers a wonderful family event filled with a variety of activities, all guaranteed to tickle your talons!

This Festival was created by the citizens of the Mid-Atlantic region to **celebrate** our charismatic Ospreys, to **educate** the public, agencies, and owners of structures to foster an attitude of co-existence and **conservation** awareness throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its estuaries. Come and enjoy a live raptor show, meet local environmental groups, observe Osprey up close, attend lectures, live music, and enjoy child-focused nature activities. The Southern Maryland Audubon Society is a proud sponsor of this event. For additional information about the festival see their website at [marylandospreyfestival.org](http://marylandospreyfestival.org) – there is a suggested donation fee of \$10 per person; \$20 per family.

### Podcast Corner

In this episode of Naturally Scott, Scott sits down with Elizabeth Gray, CEO of the National Audubon Society, for a wide-ranging conversation about birds, climate, hope, and what it really takes to turn conservation losses around.

#### [E49 — Elizabeth Gray: Bending the Bird Curve](#)

Elizabeth shares the personal experiences that shaped her life in conservation — from childhood curiosity sparked by books, to studying endangered Hawaiian honeycreepers, to witnessing firsthand how climate change affects species that live nowhere else on Earth. The conversation moves through stories of loss, resilience, and recovery, including the return of bald eagles to the Potomac River and what those birds reveal about the health of entire ecosystems.



# FREE SPRING BIRD WALKS!



## Piscataway MOS Sanctuary @ Hardy Tavern Drive

Come on out and enjoy a morning of learning about birds at your local Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) Sanctuary at Piscataway (14300 Hardy Tavern Dr, Accokeek)!

This event is completely free, and the walk will be led by an MOS Bird Guide. Anyone who wants to learn about birds is strongly encouraged to come, and no experience is necessary! The walk is open to folks of all ages, so bring the whole family, and binoculars can be provided upon request!

**Sunday, May 3rd &  
Saturday, May 23rd  
7:30am - 10:30am**

Please scan the QR code to RSVP for a walk!

For more details and to ask any questions, please contact Alex at [piscatawaysanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:piscatawaysanctuary@gmail.com)



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## 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](mailto:somdaudubon@yahoo.com) for more information about volunteering with SMAS.



Ross's and Snow Geese

Photo by Mick Thompson

## Welcome, New Members!

Donna Brown, Callaway

Deborah Brumbley, Waldorf

Christine Grossman, Leonardtown

Roger Johnson, Leonardtown

Kirke Lathrop, Saint Leonard

Horace Tsu, Waldorf

### 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](http://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 cooperation 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:

- |                                                          |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Osprey, \$10 each               | Total Amount: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Owl, \$25 each             | Total Amount: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Donation to Raptor Fund | 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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](mailto:jtylerbell@yahoo.com)  
The deadline for *The Osprey* is the fifth of each month. Please send all short articles, reports, unique sightings, conservation updates, calendar items, etc. to the above address.

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