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SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 181, Bryans Road, Maryland 20616

*Southern
Maryland
Audubon
Society*



**2011-2012
Program**

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SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

MONTHLY MEETINGS 2011-2012

SEPTEMBER 7 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary's County
37600 New Market Road (Rt. 6 at Rt. 5), Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
"The Status of the Eastern Coyote"

JIM BENNETT, *Habitat Manager, DNR-Wildlife and Heritage Service, Myrtle Grove WMA.*

This presentation will cover how coyotes arrived in Maryland over the past several decades, where this species is present today and the relative numbers across the state. Some of the impacts seen will also be discussed. You'll want to learn about this recent addition to our Maryland wildlife.

OCTOBER 5 – WEDNESDAY - 7:30 p.m.

La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, Charles County
911 Washington Avenue, La Plata, MD 20646

"Michael L. Smith – The Mad Bluebird, Wildlife Photographer"
MICHAEL L. SMITH, *International Wildlife Photographer*

Everyone knows the Mad Bluebird picture!! Come and meet the extraordinary photographer, Michael L. Smith, and enjoy his world of wildlife photography. He offers revealing glimpses into the lives and behavior of his subjects, as well as their breathtaking beauty. Michael will also explain the photography set-up of many of his photographs. Come and enjoy this wonderful presentation that we are so fortunate to offer.

NOVEMBER 2 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Center, Calvert County
Gray's Road off of Sixes Road (Rt. 506), Prince Frederick, MD
Call 410-535-5327 for additional information or visit
www.calvertparks.org

"The Art of Falconry - The World's Oldest Sport"

JEREMY ALLEN, *Falconer*

Falconry dates back 3000 years and is known as the oldest sport in the world. Learn about the history, art and regulations of hunting with a bird of prey. Jeremy will have a live bird with him and may also be in the company with another falconer. Great close up opportunity for photographing and observing a live raptor.

DECEMBER 7 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary's County
37600 New Market Road (Rt. 6 at Rt. 5), Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
"Local Photographers Night and Holiday Gift Sale"

Come see what others have photographed on trips, backyards, and local birding hot spots. Feel free to bring your own photos to show. Contact Lynne Wheeler by November 15 at 301-743-3236 or fidsruschic@aol.com to coordinate electronic viewing equipment. We are also highlighting our SMAS book and gift store to help you with your hard to find holiday gift shopping. Gift wrapping included!

JANUARY 4 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Leonardtown Library, St. Mary's County
23250 Hollywood Road (Rt. 245), Leonardtown, MD 20640
"St. Paul, Alaska – Birdwatching Haven. A study of Seabird Telemetry"
TOM HARTEN, *Calvert County Public School Environmental Educator*

During the summer of 2009 Tom Harten was selected as a PolarTREC teacher to join in a research project in the Bering Sea of Alaska. The project focused on seabird telemetry in the Pribilof Islands, a mecca for birders from around the world. No fewer than 248 species of birds have been recorded on the island. In spring, many rare birds, including Siberian vagrants, can be spotted on the island. Please come and join Tom as he shares this wonderful experience on St. Paul.

FEBRUARY 1 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 P.M.

La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, Charles County
911 Washington Avenue, La Plata, MD 20646

"A Snapshot of Cuba Today"

GWEN BREWER AND GEORGE JETT, *Southern Maryland Audubon Members*

In Mid-April 2011, Gwen Brewer and George Jett traveled to Cuba as part of the Caribbean Conservation Trust's long running bird survey. They searched for both resident (particularly endemic) and migrant birds as they traveled over 2,600 km and visited many of the ecosystems of this isolated island country. The group tallied 166 species and 10,208 individual birds during the 10-day trip. The program will also include elements of Cuban culture, history, and other natural history components such as insects, reptiles, amphibians and plants. Don't miss this latest adventure of these intrepid travelers!

MARCH 7 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Leonardtown Library, St. Mary's County
23250 Hollywood Road (Rt. 245), Leonardtown, MD 20640
"Saw-whet Owls in Maryland"

MELISSA BOYLE & DAVE BRINKER, *Maryland Department of Natural Resources.*

Although seldom seen or heard, the Northern Saw-whet Owl is relatively common throughout Maryland, if you know when and where to look. The smallest of all owls in Maryland, this species is found from the Eastern Shore to the mountains. Learn about ongoing research, what we have learned so far, and what we still don't know about this little elusive owl. This program is sure to whet your appetite for "S-whets!"

APRIL 4 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Center, Calvert County
Gray's Road off of Sixes Road (Rt. 506), Prince Frederick, MD
Call 410-535-5327 for additional information or visit www.calvertparks.org

"Out of South Africa, A Naturalist's Adventure"

GREG KEARNS, *MD-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Patuxent River Park*

Go on a safari with naturalist Greg Kearns to see the cultural & natural beauty South Africa's Capetown and Kruger National Park. This multimedia presentation will highlight the large mammals, mega fauna of the region and some notable birds. You know how electrifying Greg's talks can be, so imagine joining him step by step on an African safari!

MAY 2 – WEDNESDAY – 6:45 p.m. (field trip); 8:00 (lecture)

Hard Bargain Farm, 2301 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, Prince George's County and Faith United Methodist Church, 15769 Livingston Road, Accokeek

"Living Shoreline at Piscataway Park"

KAREN JENSEN MILES, *Program Director, Alice Ferguson Foundation*

With several factors causing increased erosion along the Potomac River shoreline, a stabilized "Living Shoreline" was constructed in 2010. Funded by NOAA through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the project restored 2,800 feet of shoreline. Come walk along the Potomac River to see how this project is monitored, and observe the many flora and fauna and bird species. Enjoy a great view of Mount Vernon against the magical sunset. Meet at 6:45 p.m. at the Hard Bargain Farm parking lot to carpool to the shore. After our one hour walk we will return to the parking lot and drive to the Faith United Methodist Church for Q&A and refreshments, estimate time 8:00. This is a special treat for SMAS. Feel free to meet us wherever you can. (In case of rain, meet at 7:30 at the church)

JUNE 3 – SUNDAY – 1:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Center, Calvert County
Gray's Road off of Sixes Road (Rt. 506), Prince Frederick, MD

ANNUAL MEETING

Potluck Lunch.....	1:30 – 3:00
Host's Briefing	3:00 – 3:30
Business Meeting	3:30 – 4:00
Bird Walk	4:00 – 5:00

Bring your family, friends, and favorite food dish and join us at this 100-acre nature sanctuary renowned for its primeval beauty. On the quarter-mile boardwalk trail gaze up at the 100-foot canopy of cypress trees and listen to nature's harmony of frogs calling and birds singing. Call 410-535-5327 for directions and additional information or visit www.calvertparks.org

SMAS FIELD TRIPS 2011-2012*

September 11 – Sunday – 8 AM – noon

Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary's County
"GRASSPIPERS"

Leader: Kyle Rambo (301-757-0005, kyle.rambo@navy.mil). This trip will visit some excellent grassland habitat on restricted access runways. Target species include Buff-breasted Sandpiper and American Golden Plover. Meet in the parking lot at NAS Gate #1. Limited to 10 participants. Pre-registration is mandatory (call 301-757-0005). Open only to US citizens. You must bring a photo ID.

September 24 – Saturday – 8 AM – noon

Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert County
"FALL MIGRATION"

Leader: Tyler Bell (301-862-4623, jtylerbell@yahoo.com). Neotropical migrants should be near their peak. Warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and other songbirds. Good trails through wooded habitat & along the creek. Take Rt. 2/4 south of Prince Frederick for about 14 miles. Follow signs to the park. Meet leader in parking lot. Facilities and fee. 3 miles round trip. RSVP required.

October 15 – Saturday – 8 AM – noon

Cove Point Marsh, Calvert County
"SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS"

Leader: Bob Boxwell (443-404-5549, bobboxwell@hotmail.com)

Cove Point beach and marsh were a unique habitat on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. A Living Shoreline project is attempting to restore the fresh water marsh after a massive breach and salt water incursion. We are targeting sparrows, marsh inhabitants and migrants. This is a restricted area and we are limited to ten guests. Reservations are required at least one week prior to the trip.

October 22- Saturday – 8 AM-noon

Indian Head Rail Trail, Mason Springs, Charles County
"RED-HEADS ON THE RAIL TRAIL"

Leaders: Beth and Jason Groth (301-705-7922, ecocat@yahoo.com)

There are a few hot spots along the Indian Head Rail Trail (IHRT) that provide good wintering habitat for Red-headed woodpeckers, yielding high numbers of individuals. One of the hot spots has revealed as many as 23 individuals. Come join us for a leisurely morning of birding along this wonderful trail and search for these beautiful birds as well as sparrows and other land birds. Meet and park at MD Rt. 224 IHRT Parking Lot, located just East of MD Rt. 225.

October 29 - Saturday - 8 AM - noon

Caledon Natural Area, King George, VA
"FALL MIGRANTS AND RESIDENT BIRDS"

Leader: Mike Callahan (240-765-5192, raptorsrule@juno.com).

The Caledon Natural Area is a Virginia State Park on the Potomac River on the opposite shore from Riverside and Nanjemoy. Meadow and river bottom, swamp and marsh habitats and is known for Bald Eagles (at least 15 in one spot!), Red-headed Woodpeckers too. Last fall we had flocks of both Wood Stork and White Pelican at Caledon! Meet at MD 301 visitor center just north of Harry Nice Bridge. Toll south-bound for bridge. Contact leader for more info. Limited to 12 participants due to space in the park van. RSVP required. \$3 vehicle fee.

November 6 – Sunday - 8 AM - noon

Myrtle Grove WMA, Charles County *Youths especially welcome!*
"BIRDING FOR ALL LEVELS"

Leader: Fred Burggraf (301-934-8042, fburggraf@aol.com). Diverse habitat for hawks, sparrows, woodpeckers, and early waterfowl. Great for beginning birders! From Rt. 301 in La Plata, take Rt. 225 west about 4.5 miles to the WMA on the right. From Rt. 210 take Rt. 225 east about 4 miles to the WMA. Follow the dirt road to the end (about a mile) and meet in the parking lot near the lake. RSVP required.

November 13 - Sunday - 8 AM - noon

King's Landing Park, Calvert County
"LATE FALL BIRDS"

Leader: Tom Harten (301-780-6196, tomharten@verizon.net)

King's Landing Park, in Huntingtown, offers a variety of habitats attractive to wintering birds including forest, open fields, freshwater wetlands and the Patuxent River. We'll meet next to the CHESPA office near the main parking lot of the park. King's Landing is located 5 miles north of Prince Frederick following Route 4. Turn left onto Old Town Rd. (MD 524). Turn left at Bowen's Grocery Store and continue straight for about 3 miles to park entrance. RSVP required.

November 19 - Saturday - 8 AM - noon

Mattawoman Natural Environmental Area Wildlands, Charles County
"EARLY WATERFOWL FROM THE GEORGE WILMOT TRAIL"

Leader: Gwen Brewer (301-843-3524, gibrewer@comcast.net) Come search for migrating waterfowl on Mattawoman Creek and for songbirds in this prime natural area. This time of year as many as 5000 individuals and 13 species of waterfowl have been present, including Eurasian Wigeon. On Rt. 224 (Chicamuxen Rd.) off Rt. 225 between La Plata & Indian Head. Meet in the lower (2d) parking lot at Lackey High School (left side of Rt. 224). Bring a spotting scope if you have one and be prepared for a moderate walk. No facilities and no fees. This is a joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. RSVP required.

December 10 - Saturday – 10 AM – 2 PM *NOTE LATER START TIME*

Beauve Ponds, St. Mary's County

"WINTER WATERFOWL AT BEAUVUE"

Leader: Sigrid Stiles. (301-872-4053, sigstiles@aol.com). View wintering waterfowl at the ponds at Beauve. We'll also search for land birds such as Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Short-eared Owl and Eastern Meadowlark. No facilities, no fees. Meet at Leonardtown Middle School parking lot. Drive south from Leonardtown on Rt. 5. Turn right at the light at Medley's Neck Rd then immediately left into the parking lot. RSVP required.

December 14 - January 5

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

See other side for details on our Southern Maryland Christmas Bird Counts. Also check *The Osprey* or go to the SMAS website at www.somdaudubon.org for additional information.

January 2 – Monday - 8 AM - 2 PM

St. Mary's Winter Chase, St. Mary's County

"START YOUR YEAR OFF BIRDING"

Leader: Mikey Lutmerding (301-455-9370, mlutmerding@gmail.com).

Two-thirds day. Search for winter specialties in a very productive area. Expect stops at Beauve, Point Lookout and other hotspots. Meet at entrance to Point Lookout State Park on Rt. 5. Be prepared for the cold and dress warmly. Bring scopes if you have them. Facilities are along the way, no fee except Point Lookout. RSVP required.

January 22– Sunday - 8 AM - noon

Piscataway Park & Hard Bargain Farm, Prince George's County

"WINTER WATERFOWL AND RESIDENT BIRDS"

Leader: Chris Ordway (301-203-8014, olebuck@strixvaria.org)

Email communication preferred. This is a prime area for wintering waterfowl. The varied habitat of woods, farm fields and edges provides a great variety of land birds. Take Rt. 210, Indian Head Highway to Livingston Rd. (South of Farmington Rd and North of Rt. 228). Take Livingston Rd. east and meet at Burger King in the Bloom shopping center, 15785 Livingston Rd., Accokeek, MD 20607. No facilities or fee. Limit of 20. This is a joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. RSVP required.

January 28– Saturday – all day

Ocean City, MD to Indian River Inlet, DE

"WINTER COASTAL BIRDS"

Leader: Fred Shaffer (410-721-1744, glaucousgull@verizon.net).

This mid-winter trip will visit the lower eastern shore and various inlets and bays along the coast in search of waterfowl, gulls, and other winter birds. Stops may include the Cambridge waterfront, Naylor Mill Road (viewing of gulls from the Salisbury landfill), Ocean City inlet, and Indian River inlet. Call leader for carpooling/meeting information. Contact Fred Shaffer at 410-721-1744 for additional information.

February 4 – Saturday – 9AM - 11AM *Youth Trip*

Point Lookout State Park, St. Mary's County

"SCOUTING FOR BIRDS"

Leader: Melissa Boyle (443-340-3035, melissaboyle3@gmail.com).

Ages 8-12. Join scouts looking to complete badge requirements and learn winter birds. There is a fee to enter the park. Dress warmly, and bring binoculars. Pre-registration required. E-mail registration preferred. Meeting location to be determined. Contact leader for details.

February 5 – Sunday – 8 AM - noon

Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert County

"WINTER WATERFOWL TRIP"

Leader: Tyler Bell (301-862-4623, jtylerbell@yahoo.com). Open fields and wooded areas can provide good land birding and the river frontage for close views of winter waterfowl. Call or email the leader for directions to the meeting location. RSVP required.

March 9 – Monday – 8 PM

Owl Prowl, Charles County *Youths especially welcome*

Leader: Mike Callahan (240-765-5192, raptorsrule@juno.com).

On this night hike we will listen and look for owls in Charles County. Due to the sensitivity of possible nesting owls, the meeting location will be given when you call leader Mike Callahan at 240-765-5192 to sign up.

March 17 – Saturday - 8 AM - noon

Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary's County
"LATE WINTER LAND BIRDS, WATERFOWL"

Leader: Dean Newman (240-895-7321, dean_newman@verizon.net). Meet at the Park & Ride lot across the street from the Lexington Park Post Office on Tulagi Place. This trip has produced Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Short-eared Owl, and waterfowl in the past. Facilities, no fee. You must sign up for this trip in advance. Call the leader for reservations and security details before February 28. RSVP required.

April 21– Saturday – half day

Jug Bay area, Prince George's County

"BIRDING HOTSPOTS ALONG THE PATUXENT RIVER"

Leader: Fred Shaffer (410-721-1744, glaucousgull@verizon.net).

This mid-spring trip will visit several parks along the Patuxent River in southern Prince George's County in search of migrant sparrows and waterfowl, as well as other birds in the fields and forests lining the Patuxent River. Possible stops include Jug Bay, Milltown Landing, and Aquasco Farms. Meet at Mt. Calvert Park at 8:10 AM to begin the trip. Contact Fred Shaffer at 410-721-1744 for additional information.

May 5 – Saturday – 8 AM - noon

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Calvert County

"BARRED OWLS AND PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS"

Leader: Andy Brown (410-535-5327, brownaj@co.cal.md.us)

Target species include Prothonotary, Hooded and Kentucky Warblers, as well as other notable spring migrants. Particular emphasis will be on identification by song. From Prince Frederick, Rt. 2/4, 2 miles, right onto Sixes Rd. 2 miles, left onto Gray's Rd. Nature Center entrance on the right. Facilities, no fee. RSVP required.

May 12 – Saturday - All Day

COUNTY MAY COUNTS

Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's Counties

Help needed from all: backyard birders, beginners, team leaders. Data and information help save our birds! County coordinators are as follows:

Calvert: Sue Hamilton (410-586-1494, seal10n2002@yahoo.com);

Charles: George Jett (301-843-3524, gjett@comcast.net);

Prince George's: Fred Fallon (301-249-1518, fwfallon@earthlink.net);

St. Mary's: Patty Craig (301-872-5670), evrie@hughes.net.

See the May issue of *The Osprey* or the SMAS website for additional information.

May 18, 19, 20 – Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Delaware Bay

"MIGRATING SHOREBIRDS & SPAWNING HORSESHOE CRABS"

Leader: Millie Kriemelmeyer (301-372-8766, milliek@radix.net).

The trip is timed for the peak migration of Red Knots, Ruddy Turnstones and other shorebirds who stop at the Delaware Bay to fatten on horseshoe crab eggs before resuming their journey to northern Canada. Dover, Delaware area hotspots will be visited: Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, DuPont Nature Center, and Delaware Bay beaches. Early hotel reservations at Dover Comfort Inn are recommended; RSVP with the trip leader is required. Come for one day or the whole trip. All ages are welcome. Contact leader for details.

May 26 – Saturday – 8 A.M. – noon

Smallwood State Park, Charles County *Youths especially welcome!*

2750 Sweden Point Road, Marbury, MD 20658

"MULTI-HABITAT BIRDING"

Leaders: Lynne Wheeler (301-751-8097, fidsruschic@aol.com) and Jean Artes. This is one of our favorite parks as it has such a wonderful varied habitat. The walk will offer you forest interior dwelling species, field/meadow species, raptors, wading birds, shorebirds, and gulls. Previous trips have revealed Prothonotary, Hooded and Kentucky Warblers. No reservation required, so you can make a last minute decision! The park meeting location will be posted at the entrance gate. A \$3 vehicle fee is required. From Rt. 225(Hawthorne Rd)/Rt. 224 (Chicamuxen Rd) intersection take Rt. 224 approx. 3 miles to park entrance on right.

Barn Owls & Breakfast, Charles County *Youths especially welcome!*

Mid-May to early June, Sunday morning. To be determined. See *The Osprey* and SMAS website for date selected

Leader: Mike Callahan (240-765-5192, raptorsrule@juno.com).

Join our Raptor Conservation Committee Chairman Mike Callahan for a new version of B&B. Trip participants will enjoy breakfast before we check a Barn Owl nest box and possibly band the nestling owls. This trip will take place on private property, so the location is not advertised. There is a \$3 fee to help cover the cost of food. Bring your own reusable plate, mug and utensils to help make this a "greener" trip. Sign up with Mike at 240-765-5192 so food can be ordered. Limited space available and you will be notified of meeting location upon sign up. RSVP required.

* Before heading out to any field trip, please check the website for any last minute changes.
The website address is: www.somdaudubon.org

**SOUTHERN MARYLAND
AUDUBON SOCIETY**
P.O. Box 181
Bryans Road, MD 20616

THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY (SMAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS) and is the largest citizen group involved in nature study and natural resource conservation issues in the Southern Maryland counties of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's and southern Prince George's. SMAS was founded in 1971 and in 1972 was chartered by the National Audubon Society. SMAS is a non-profit organization, incorporated in Maryland with its activities financed by a membership dues-sharing arrangement with NAS and by SMAS fund raising activities. It operates under the provisions of an approved constitution with business conducted by directors and officers elected by its members.

YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF SMAS by joining NAS or by joining SMAS as a Chapter-Only member. See below for membership rates. A National Membership brings you six issues of the Audubon magazine. Chapter-Only and National Memberships provide you the SMAS newsletter, all rights and privileges of memberships, and make contributions to conservation in Southern Maryland and throughout the USA. Membership dues are sent to:

Southern Maryland Audubon Society,
P.O. Box 181
Bryans Road, MD 20616.

Chapter-Only, Individual/Family \$20.00
Chapter-Only, Senior/Student..... \$15.00

(For Chapter-Only Membership, make the check payable to Southern Maryland Audubon Society. All dues go to SMAS)

National, Regular (Renewal)..... \$35.00
National, Introductory (one year)..... \$20.00
National, Senior/Student..... \$15.00

(For National Membership, make the check payable to National Audubon Society. A fraction of NAS dues go to the local chapter.)

GENERAL MEETINGS are held from September through May, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. These meetings, publicized in advance, are open to the general public and feature a guest speaker or film dealing with topics of natural history and conservation as detailed in this brochure. Arrive at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and socializing before the program starts.

AN ANNUAL MEETING for election of officers is usually held on the first Sunday of June. The program includes a potluck lunch, election of officers, lecture or other program event and late afternoon bird walks. Members are encouraged to bring guests.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS are held August through June, usually the last Wednesday of the month, to conduct the business of the Society. Members are welcome to attend. See *The Osprey* for the date and location of the next board meeting.

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, *The Osprey*, is sent to each member by email or traditional USPS mail delivery. To receive your copy via email please visit our website for detailed information regarding multiple options. For regular mail delivery either send us a note to our mail box as noted in this brochure, or give our Newsletter Editor a call. It can also be accessed anytime at our website. It contains information on monthly programs, field trips, environmental issues, and local chapter activities.

A 50-ACRE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY called Nanjemoy Marsh Sanctuary, located on Nanjemoy Creek in Charles County, is owned and operated by SMAS.

FIELD TRIPS are arranged by a Field Trip Committee for various weekends from September through June. The field trips, led by experienced members, introduce participants to the natural history of various localities throughout Southern Maryland. Special youth trips are also featured. A telephone number is listed with each leaders so participants can get information about appropriate clothing and equipment, or cancellation.

FOUR SOUTHERN MARYLAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS are conducted by SMAS or others under the rules established by the National Audubon

Society. Help for each of these counts is needed from all: backyard birders, beginners, team leaders. The data and information collected help to save our birds and their habitat.

DECEMBER 18
Sunday - Port Tobacco Count
Coordinator: Gwen Brewer (301-843-3524)

DECEMBER 18
Sunday - Point Lookout Count
Coordinator: Bob Boxwell (410-394-1300)

JANUARY 1
Sunday - Patuxent River Count
Coordinator: Andy Brown (Work 410-535-5327)

JANUARY 1
Sunday - Fort Belvoir Count
MD Area Coordinator: Carol Gheblian (301-753-6754)

A SMALL BOOKSTORE is managed by SMAS and operated at each monthly meeting as a service to members. The inventory includes a variety of field guides and other nature books, including books for children. Nest boxes, specialty items, and shade-grown coffee are also offered. Requested items can be special ordered.

A RAPTOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM conducts raptor research in Southern Maryland to include the search for nesting sites for Barn Owls and American Kestrels and the placing of nest boxes where appropriate. It also conducts annual banding operations of nestling Ospreys, Barn Owls, and American Kestrels. This work is principally funded by our Adopt-a-Raptor program that seeks foster parents for each year's banded birds. See *The Osprey* or contact our committee for further information.

JOIN OUR YAHOO GROUP and receive current notices of meetings, field trips, conservation issues, or to report and share bird sightings. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and in the search field type: md-smas. We also welcome you to...

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
<http://www.somdaudubon.org/>