

High School. Meet in the Lower (2nd) parking lot. Bring a spotting scope if you have one, and be prepared for a moderate walk. No facilities and no fee. This is joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society. RSVP required.

**December 4 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.**

**Monthly Meeting Program**

Leonardtwn Library, St. Mary's County  
23250 Hollywood Road (Rt. 245), Leonardtown, MD 20650  
"Holiday Nature Arts Fest"

Come display your photography, artwork, or any nature-oriented craft. Some work may be offered for holiday purchase. Enjoy an evening of sharing and viewing while nibbling on cakes and cookies. If interested in selling your work at this event contact: Lynne Wheeler at 301-743-3236 or [comstockel@aol.com](mailto:comstockel@aol.com). A great start for the holiday season!

**December 6 AND December 13  
FRIDAY – 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Field Trip**

**Myrtle Point Park, St. Mary's County**

"WINTER OWL PROWLs"

Leader: Bob Boxwell (410-610-5124,  
[bobboxwell@hotmail.com](mailto:bobboxwell@hotmail.com))

**Youths especially welcome!**

This trip is co-sponsored with the Friends of Myrtle Point Park and is an annual event which attempts to "call out" the resident owls of the park. Owls are nocturnal, and therefore, not easy to spot. We will meet in front of the park gates and attempt to attract owls by having them respond to recorded calls. Please dress for the weather, but avoid "noisy" clothing (please no snowsuits!). This event is weather dependent. Rain or high winds will result in cancellation. To find Myrtle Point Park, take Rt. 4 in St. Mary's County to Patuxent Boulevard, and follow to the end.

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 2013/2014**

- Dec. 15 Port Tobacco Count** Gwen Brewer  
[glbrewer@comcast.net](mailto:glbrewer@comcast.net)
- Dec. 22 Point Lookout Count** Bob Boxwell  
[bobboxwell@hotmail.com](mailto:bobboxwell@hotmail.com)
- Dec. 29 Patuxent River** Andy Brown  
[brownajr@co.cal.md.us](mailto:brownajr@co.cal.md.us)
- Jan. 5 Ft. Belvoir** Carol Gheblian  
[gheblian@comcast.net](mailto:gheblian@comcast.net)

**2013-2014 OFFICERS**

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**Secretary, Lynne Wheeler** 301-743-3236  
**Treasurer, Will Daniel** 301-274-5756  
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**RAPTOR CONSERVATION**  
Mike Callahan  
240-765-5192

**HOSPITALITY**  
Gwen Brewer

**Adopt-a-Raptor**  
Melissa Boyle  
443-340-3035

The Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS) and is the largest citizen group involved in natural resource conservation, environmental education and nature study in Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's and southern Prince George's county. Please join us for one of our events this Fall!

You can become a **member** of SMAS by joining NAS or by joining SMAS as a Chapter-Only member. Please see our membership information on our website or call a membership committee chair listed above.

Our **Raptor Conservation Program** conducts raptor research and conservation in the Southern Maryland area and is supported by our Adopt-a-Raptor program. The program currently includes four species: Osprey, Barn Owl, American Kestrel and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Please see our website for adoption details and assist in our cause.

Southern  
Maryland  
Audubon  
Society



**2013 Fall Program**

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

[www.somdaudubon.org](http://www.somdaudubon.org)



# SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

## Field Trips, Programs, Meetings & Events

**September 4 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.**

### Monthly Meeting Program

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary's County

37600 New Market Rd. (Rt. 6 at Rt. 5), Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

**“The Gambia and Senegal – George and Gwen in West Africa”**

Gwen Brewer, *Ornithologist and*

George Jett, *Naturalist and Photographer*

In November 2012, our favorite local Audubon pair travelled for three weeks to The Gambia and Senegal, their focus on its wildlife, landscape, and culture. The varied habitats of the area host abundant indigenous plants and animals, in addition to migrant species and newly planted species. The birdlife in the Gambia is colorful and rich, with 560 species inhabiting coastal saltwater, freshwater wetlands, savanna, woodlands and forests, agricultural lands, towns and villages. A known hot spot for ornithologists! Our presenters saw over 300 species and captured over 200 images including Egyptian Plover, reptiles, mammals, and some near endemic birds. They will also offer us a peek into the area's culture and African landscapes, peppered and spiced with their usual humorous discussion.

**September 15 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – Noon**

### Field Trip

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

**“GRASSPIPERS”**

Leader: Kyle Rambo (301-757-0005, [kyle.rambo@navy.mil](mailto: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. We are limited to 10 participants, and pre-registration is mandatory: call 301-757-0005. Open only to US citizens. Must bring a photo ID.

**September 21 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – Noon**

### Field Trip

**Smallwood State Park, Charles County**

**“MULTI-HABITAT BIRDING”**

Leaders: Michael Patterson and Lynne Wheeler

(301-751-8097, [comstockel@aol.com](mailto:comstockel@aol.com)).

Join us for the wonderful multi-habitats that this state park provides – water, forest, and fields. This should be a great time for migrant warblers!! Previous walks have easily offered us close views of Red-headed Woodpeckers, Osprey, Eagles, Waterfowl, Terns and Gull species. The meeting location will be posted at the park entrance. A \$3.00 per vehicle fee may be required. From Rt. 225 (Hawthorne Road)/Rt. 224 (Chicamuxen Road) intersection, take Rt. 224 approximately three miles to park entrance on the right.

**September 29 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

### Field Trip

**Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary's County**

**“BIRDING THE FIELDS AND TRAILS OF SOTTERLEY”**

Leaders: Michael Patterson and David Moulton

(240-278-4473, [moulton.davidh@gmail.com](mailto:moulton.davidh@gmail.com)).

Join us for a bird-filled exploration of this scenic and historic Patuxent River property. Beginners welcome! Several new trails and new habitats have added to Sotterley's extensive natural areas and agricultural acreage. Sparrows, raptors, woodpeckers and waterbirds on the river should keep things lively. From Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through gates to the gravel parking lot on the Sotterley historic property.

**October 2 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.**

### Monthly Meeting Program

Leonardtown Library, St. Mary's County

23250 Hollywood Road (Rt. 245), Leonardtown, MD 20650

**“The Northern Saw-whet Owl in Southern Maryland”**

Melissa Boyle, *Naturalist*

Join Melissa Boyle to learn more about the elusive Northern Saw-whet Owl, Maryland's smallest owl species. Once thought to be a rare visitor to our area, it is now known to frequent Southern Maryland, if you know where and when to look! Come and find out when and where this species is most likely to be found. Research on this species has been ongoing in Maryland for almost twenty years, but only recently has begun in Southern Maryland. Learn all about this fascinating little owl and how you can contribute to the research and conservation of the Northern Saw-whet Owl in our area.

**October 2 – WEDNESDAY – 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

### Fundraiser Texas Roadhouse, Lexington Park

Please take a break looking for migrants in trees and support SMAS by joining us at the Texas Roadhouse restaurant prior to the monthly meeting program listed above. See the *Osprey* newsletter or our website at [www.somdaudubon.org](http://www.somdaudubon.org) for the Texas Roadhouse flyer that you must bring in order for SMAS to get credit. PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SOCIETY!!

**October 5 - SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – Noon**

### Field Trip

**Cove Point Beach and Marsh, Calvert County**

**“SPARROWS AND SHOREBIRDS”**

Leader: Bob Boxwell (410-610-5124,

[bobboxwell@hotmail.com](mailto:bobboxwell@hotmail.com)),

We will visit beach and marsh habitat that attract many interesting sparrows and shorebirds. A Living Shoreline

project has established breakwaters and vegetation to protect the interior marsh and return it to its fresh-water status. Meet at the Giant Parking lot off of Route 2/4 at the Lusby Town Center (Rousby Hall Road) at 8:00 a.m. We will carpool to the locale as there is limited parking. Limited to only ten people and reservations are required, RSVP by October 1st.

**October 12 - SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m. – Noon**

### Field Trip

**Indian Head Rail Trail, Charles County**

**“RED-HEADS ON THE RAIL TRAIL”**

Leaders: Michael Patterson, Lynne Wheeler

(301-751-8097, [comstockel@aol.com](mailto:comstockel@aol.com))

There are a few hot spots on the Indian Head Rail Trail that provide good wintering habitat for Red-headed Woodpeckers, yielding high numbers of individuals. One of the hot spots has revealed up to 23 birds! Join us for a leisurely morning of birding along the trail in search of woodpeckers, sparrows and other land birds. Meet and park at MD Rt. 224 IHRT Parking Lot, located just east of MD Rt. 225.

**November 6 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.**

### Monthly Meeting Program

La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, Charles County

911 Washington Avenue, La Plata, MD 20646

**“The Maryland Biodiversity Project”**

Jim Brighton, *Naturalist and Photographer*

The Maryland Biodiversity Project was started in June, 2012 by Bill Hubick and Jim Brighton to thoroughly catalog the living things of Maryland. We have already cataloged over 10,000 species, including over 3,200 species with photographs contributed by more than 130 photographers. We are excited to collaborate with the many exceptional naturalists in and around Maryland in making this an indispensable resource for conservation and education. Do not miss this very interesting program!!

**November 23 - SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – Noon**

### Field Trip

**Mattawoman Natural Environment Area, Charles County**

**“EARLY WATERFOWL FROM THE**

**GEORGE WILMOT TRAIL”**

Leader: Gwen Brewer (301-843-3524, [glbrewer@comcast.net](mailto:glbrewer@comcast.net))

Come search for migrating waterfowl and songbirds in this prime habitat! Up to 5,000 individuals and 13 different species of waterfowl have been present, including Eurasian Wigeon. From Rt. 225 (Hawthorne Road)/Rt. 224 (Chicamuxen Road) intersections take Rt. 224, go approximately ½ mile and take a left into Lackey