

March 7 – SATURDAY – 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP EVENT
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center,
Calvert County
“BLUEBIRD BOX WORKSHOP”

Leader(s): Andy Brown and Melissa Boyle
 Attention gardeners, birders, and nature lovers!! Learn to build your own Bluebird nest box and help the eastern Bluebird. The workshop will also instruct you about the installation, placement, maintenance, and habitat requirements to assist this beautiful bird; then enjoy your efforts at home this spring! All tools and materials will be supplied. Participants will make a bluebird box to take home to place in a suitable habitat and monitor in their own yard. Fee: \$15/box. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Recommended for ages 8 to adult. Pre-registration by March 1st. Email Melissa Boyle to register: melissaboyle3@gmail.com

March 14 – SATURDAY – 8:100 a.m. – 12 noon
FIELD TRIP
Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary’s County
“LATE WINTER LAND BIRDS AND WATERFOWL”

Leader: Dean Newman
 This trip has produced Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings and Short-eared Owls. Facilities are available. No fee. Meet at the Park and Ride lot across the street from the Lexington Park Post Office on Tulagi Place. Mandatory pre-registration due to security details. Call or email Dean to register: dean.newman@dau.mil or 301-672-5464.

March 14 – SATURDAY- 8 a.m.
FIELD TRIP
Ward Road, Calvert County
“WINTER BIRD LIST”

Leader: Karen Anderson, Master Naturalist
 Join Karen as she explores Calvert County’s newest park off of Ward road in Dunkirk. The Natural Resources Division would like our help to compile the bird list for this exciting new 209 acre property at 10455 Ward Road. RSVP TO Karen at r_otters1@msn.com

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, St. Mary’s and southern Prince George’s. SMAS was founded in 1971 and was chartered by the National Audubon Society in 1972. SMAS is a non-profit organization incorporated in Maryland, with 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.

Monthly Meetings are held from September through June, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. These meetings are publicized in advance, open to the general public, and feature a guest speaker or film dealing with topics of nature and conservation. Arrive at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and socializing if the program is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Field Trips are arranged for various weekends throughout the year and are led by experienced members. Special youth trips are also featured. If you are a new birder we strongly recommend you to join our trips as it is the best way to learn and lots of fun. You will discover the wonderful birding spots in Southern Maryland while learning more about our avian friends. A telephone and/or email address is listed with each leader. Most trips require guests to **RSVP**. Cancellation notification may be arranged directly from the leader or via the website.

Our **Raptor Conservation** is a primary effort of SMAS. The Raptor Conservation committee, aided by members, conducts research and enacts conservation activities in Southern Maryland. It is supported by our Adopt-a-Raptor program and currently includes four species: Osprey, Barn Owl, American Kestrel, and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Please see our website or newsletter for adoption details and assist our cause.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 2014/2015.
 The Audubon Christmas Bird Counts will be from December 14 through January 5th. Please see the December Osprey newsletter or the website for details in your area.

2014-2015 OFFICERS

President, Michael Patterson 301-752-5763	Vice-President, Bob Lukinic 301-283-6317
Secretary, Lynne Wheeler 301-743-3236	Treasurer, Will Daniel 301-274-5756
Past President, Mike Callahan 240-465-5192	

DIRECTORS

Jean Artes 240-274-9789	Andy Brown 443-624-3687
Chris Ordiway 301-267-7803	Margarita Rochow 240-577-1748
Melissa Boyle 443-340-3035	<i>Open</i>

COMMITTEES

ARCHIVES Carol Ghebelian 301-753-6754	NEWSLETTER EDITOR Tyler Bell 301-862-4623
CONSERVATION Chair: Bob Lukinic 301-283-6317	PUBLICITY Nancy Megas 240-377-6024
EDUCATION Chair: Michael Patterson 301-752-5763	SOCIAL MEDIA Chris Ordiway 240-377-7768
FIELD TRIPS Melissa Boyle 443-340-3035	PROGRAMS Jean Artes 240-274-9789
FINANCE Paula Willoughby 301-862-9631	MEMBERSHIP Co-Chair: Carol Ghebelian 301-753-6754 Co-Chair: Lynne Wheeler 301-743-3236
RAPTOR CONSERVATION Mike Callahan 240-765-5192	HOSPITALITY Gwen Brewer 301-843-3524
Adopt-a-Raptor Melissa Boyle 443-340-3035	Habitat Stewardship–Open Fundraising–Open

You can become a member of SMAS automatically by joining the National Audubon Society (SMAS receives a fraction of NAS dues) or by joining as a Chapter-only member (SMAS retains all dues received). A National membership provides you six bi-monthly issues of the award winning Audubon magazine. Your membership helps support regional and statewide conservation issues and research studies, along with environmental education and outreach. Membership dues are as follows. Please check your preference and mail to: Southern Maryland Audubon Society, P.O. Box 181, Bryans Road, MD 20616.

- Chapter-Only (SMAS) Membership**
 Make check payable to: Southern Maryland Audubon Society.
 Individual/Family: 1 yr \$20 2 yr \$38 3 yr \$56 Lifetime \$500
 Senior/Student: 1 yr \$15 2 yr \$28 3 yr \$42 Lifetime Sr. \$250
- National Audubon Society Membership**
 Make check payable to: National Audubon Society.
 Note Chapter Code #C9ZL000Z on check.
 Introductory Offer: 1 yr \$20
 Senior/Student: \$15

Southern Maryland Audubon Society



2015 WINTER FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

Find us on...



www.somdaudubon.org

**Southern Maryland
Audubon Society**

**Field Trips, Programs,
Meetings & Events**

*All Southern Maryland Audubon Society program events
are open to members and the general public.*

January 7 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Battle Creek Cypress Swim Center, Calvert County

Gray's Road off of Sixes Road (Rt 506),
Prince Frederick, MD

"SEA TURTLES OF THE CHESAPEAKE"

ANDY BROWN

Few people realize that the Chesapeake Bay is home to several species of sea turtle. Andy Brown of Calvert County Natural Resources Division and Caretta Nature Tours will discuss the life history of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle, the others species found in the Mid-Atlantic Region and the conservation efforts being done for these ancient mariners along the Atlantic Seaboard. Come early for mingling and refreshments at 7:00 p.m.

January 11 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 Noon

FIELD TRIP

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

*"WINTER BIRDS AND TUNDRA SPECIALISTS
AT PAX RIVER AIRFIELD"*

Leader: Kyle Rambo

We are fortunate to have access to airfields that provide tundra like habitat. This trip will feature typical winter airfield birds such as Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Short-eared Owls, Horned Larks, Savannah Sparrows, and possible Wilson's Snipe and Peregrine Falcon. Pre-registration is required and open to U.S. citizens only. Trip is limited to 10 people. Must bring a photo I.D. Meet at Gate #1 Visitor Parking Lot. RSVP to Kyle at 301-757-0005, kyle.rambo@navy.mil.

January 23 – FRIDAY – 7:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP – YOUTHS WELCOME!!

Elms Environmental Center, St. Mary's County

"OWL PROWL AT THE ELMS"

Leader(s): Bob Boxwell and Margarita Rochow

Come "call out" the owls at the Elms!! Owls are nocturnal, and therefore not easy to spot. This is a great Friday night family outing. Dress appropriately for the weather, and avoid noisy clothing. This event is weather dependent. Rain or high winds will result in cancellation. The address is 49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628. Take Rt 235 south, left onto St. James Church road (on the right is Mattapany road). You will see the sign for the Elms Environmental Education Center. We will meet in the hunter's parking lot on the right before the gate. RSVP to Bob Boxwell at 410-610-5124, Bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

January 25 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

FIELD TRIP

Piscataway Park & Hard Bargain Farm,

Prince George's County

"WINTER WATERFOWL AND RESIDENT BIRDS"

Leader(s): Mike Callahan and Michael Patterson

This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society. The varied habitat or water, woods, farm fields and edges provide for a great variety of birds. Take Rt 210 (Indian Head Hwy) to Livingston Road. (south of Farmington Rd. and north of Rt 228). Take Livingston Road east and meet at the Burger King in the Food Lion Shopping Center (15785 Livingston Road, Accokeek, MD 20607). No facilities. No fee. Limit to 20 participants. RSVP to Mike Callahan at raptorsrulemc@gmail.com or 240-765-5192.

January 31 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

FIELD TRIP

Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert County

"WINTER WATERFOWL TRIP"

Leader: Tyler Bell

Open fields and wooded areas provide good land birding and the river frontage close views of waterfowl. Call or email Tyler for directions to the meeting spot. RSVP to Tyler Bell at jtlyerbell@yahoo.com or 301-862-4623.

February 4 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, Charles County

911 Washington Avenue, La Plata, MD 20646

"Project SNOWstorm, Project OwlNet"

STEVE HUY, Bird Bander and Bird of Prey Specialist

Steve Huy will discuss the creation of Project SNOWstorm, launched to study the unprecedented Snowy owl irruption in eastern North America during the winter of 2013/2014. Steve is co-founder and director of Project OwlNet. Founded in 1994, Project OwlNet facilitates communication, cooperation and innovation among a rapidly growing network of hundreds of owl migration researchers in North America and abroad. He is also one of the creators and contributors to Project SNOWstorm. A bird bander, he has focused on studies of raptors and their migration for over 20 years.

February 7 – SATURDAY – 8 a.m.

FIELD TRIP

Ward Road, Calvert County

"WINTER BIRD LIST"

Leader: Karen Anderson, Master Naturalist

Join Karen as she explores Calvert County's newest park off of Ward road in Dunkirk. The Natural Resources Division would like our help to compile the bird list for this exciting new 209 acre property at 10455 Ward Road. RSVP to Karen at r_otters1@msn.com

February 20 – FRIDAY – 8:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Private Farm, Charles County

"BARN OWL PROWL"

Leader: Mike Callahan

Join us on this night hike to look and listen for the rare, year round resident owl of Southern Maryland, the Barn Owl. The farm is owned by the newly founded Wicomico Valley Foundation of Southern Maryland. This is a great family outing! Bring a reusable mug for hot chocolate. The exact meeting location will be given at registration. Suggested donation of \$5.00 per person. RSVP to Mike at 240-765-5192, or raptorsrulemc@gmail.com

March 4 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary's County

"RAPTORS RULE! A LIVE BIRD OF PREY PROGRAM"

MIKE CALLAHAN, Naturalist and Educator,

Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center

We are happy to bring back one of our most popular programs. Meet up close and personal these magnificent avian predators, the birds of prey also known as raptors. Expected visitors include owls, hawks, and eagles. Mike is the Raptor Conservation Committee Chairman for SMAS and a raptor bander. This program is great for both children and adults.

March 7 – SATURDAY – 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP EVENT

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center,

Calvert County

"FLYING WILD"

Leader: Kerry Wixted, Biologist 11,

Maryland DNR Wildlife and Heritage Division

Calling all teachers, non-formal educators, scout leaders and camp directors! Learn how to teach elementary and middle school aged students about the importance of birds with the Flying Wild curriculum. Flying Wild is a fun, hands-on set of lessons designed to teach about birds, their migration, and what people can do to help birds and their habitats. Workshop participants will explore several Flying Wild lessons while learning about local birds and educational resources. At the end of the workshop all participants will receive the Flying Wild guide. For additional information visit <http://www.dnr.stste.md.us/wildlife/Education/ProjectWild/FlyingWild.asp>
Pre-registration is required by March 1st. No fee! Registration will be online at www.somdaudubon.org or contact Melissa Boyle at melissaborle3@gmail.com for the online registration link.