

bird species in Southern Maryland. No fee, but advance registration required no later than Friday, May 10. Meet at the Park and Ride lot across the street from the Lexington Park Post Office on Tulagi Place. Call or email Dean to register: dean.newman@dau.mil or 301-672-5464.

May 12 – SATURDAY – ALL DAY

COUNTY MAY COUNTS

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

Help is always needed and appreciated from all. This is a great way to learn and improve your bird ID skills! Please contact the following county coordinators:

- CALVERT: Sherman Suter (401-586-1073, sjsuter29@verizon.net)
- CHARLES: Lynne Wheeler (301-751-8097, somdaudubon@yahoo.com)
- PRINCE GEORGE'S: Fred Fallon (401-286-8152, fwfallon@gmail.com)
- ST. MARY'S: Tyler Bell (301-862-4623, jtylerbell@yahoo.com)

June 3 – SUNDAY – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

Private waterfront farm, Bluff Point, Bushwood, St. Mary's County
Address and directions provided via email inquiry to somdaudubon@yahoo.com or call Lynne at 301-751-8097 (text preferred).

- Potluck Lunch 1:00 – 2:15
- Welcome 2:15 – 2:30
- Award presentation and Elections 2:30 – 3:00
- Bird Walk 3:00 – 4:00

Come and enjoy a beautiful new venue. This privately owned 50 acre waterfront property is situated on the junction of the Wicomico and Potomac rivers. It offers a view of Cobb Island across the river, along with a varied habitat of a pond, meadows, and forests. Sightings of American Kestrel, Meadowlarks, Osprey, and many favorites are likely. Our bird walk will be a treat with new flora and fauna to explore.

Mid-June – Watch our website for the exact date

FIELD TRIP

Patuxent River Park – Jug Bay, Prince George's County
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

“Osprey Banding Trip”

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler and Greg Kearns

If you have never been lucky enough to experience this beautiful park and see Osprey chicks up close and personal do not hesitate now! Greg Kearns, park naturalist, is one of the best in his field and provides a very entertaining, fact-filled fun outing. Feel free to come early to have a picnic lunch. Ages: 12 to adult, under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Maximum of 14 people. Cost: \$20/person, payable the day of, in cash. Pre-register with Lynne at 301-751-8097 or somdaudubon@yahoo.com (email or text preferred).

June 22 – FRIDAY – 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP – Youths Welcome!

Flag Ponds, Calvert County
1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, Lusby, MD 20657

“Nighttime Horseshoe Crab Adventure at Flag Ponds”

Leader: Andy Brown

The horseshoe crab is one of nature's miracles, and their eggs fuel the amazing migration of shorebirds! Want to see horseshoe crabs spawning on the beach by moonlight? Join us for this unique chance at water's edge. Bring flashlights, wear comfortable walking shoes that can get wet. Meet at the gate to Flag Ponds. RSVP to Andy at 443-624-3687 or Browna1@co.cal.md.us

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.

An **Annual Meeting** for election of officers is usually held on the first Sunday of June. The program includes a potluck lunch, election, and a late afternoon bird walk. The location varies each year amongst the four counties. Members are encouraged to bring guests.

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.

2017-2018 OFFICERS

- President, Lynne Wheeler** 301-743-3236, 301-751-8097
- Vice-President, Bob Lukinic** 301-283-6317
- Secretary, Julie Daniel** 240-346-1931
- Treasurer, Will Daniel** 571-237-1122
- Past President, Michael Patterson** 301-752-5763

DIRECTORS

- Tim Wells** (301) 643-0928
- Margarita Rochow** (240) 577-1748
- Carole Schnitzler** (301) 266-3966
- Tiffany Farrell** (301) 609-1345
- Julie Simpson** (301) 743-9243
- Lee Vines** (301) 752-4976

COMMITTEES

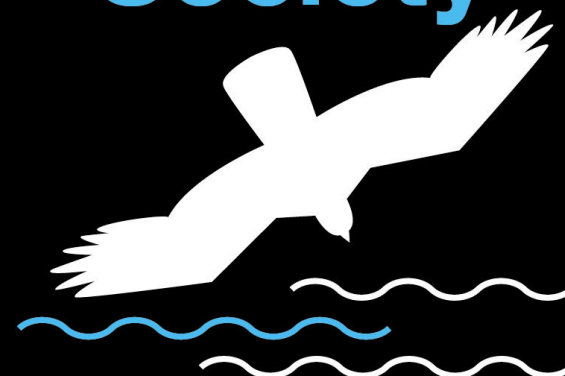
- Archives** Lynne Wheeler
- Bird-Friendly Communities** SMAS Board
- Conservation** Chair: Bob Lukinic
Calvert County – Bob Boxwell
Charles County – Bob Lukinic
Prince George's County – Millie Kriemelmeyer
St. Mary's County – Greg Klesch
- Education** Chair: Nicole Patterson
Charles County – Jean Artes
St. Mary's County – Staci Eccleston
Calvert County – Sue Hamilton
Prince George's County – Millie Kriemelmeyer
- Field Trips** David Moulton
- Finance** Nancy Megas
- Fundraising** **Open**
- Hospitality** Robbi Ross
- Membership** Lynne Wheeler
- Newsletter Editor** Tyler Bell
- Programs** Tiffany Farrell
- Publicity** Nancy Megas
- Raptor Conservation** Mike Callahan
- Adopt-a-Raptor** Carole Schnitzler
- Social Media** Nancy Megas
- SMAS Special Advisor** Carol Gheblian
- Youth Outreach** Chair: Lee Vines
Charles County – Gabby Barbone

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. Or you can visit our website and Join, Renew, or Donate via PayPal.

- Local Chapter-Only (SMAS) Membership**
Make check payable to: Southern Maryland Audubon Society.
Individual/Family: 1 yr \$20 2 yr \$35 3 yr \$45 Lifetime \$500
- National Audubon Society (NAS) Membership**
Make check payable to National Audubon Society.
Note Chapter Code #C9ZL000Z on check.
Introductory Offer: – 1 year \$20

FREE EVENTS

Southern Maryland Audubon Society



2018

JAN-JUNE FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

facebook

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 3 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

North Point High School, Staff Development Room,
Charles County

2500 Davis Road, Waldorf, MD 20603

“WHOOPIING CRANE CONSERVATION IN N. AMERICA”

JOHN B. FRENCH, JR., Ph.D., Director,

USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Come learn about the history of Whooping Crane conservation efforts from the early decades of the 20th century to the present. Current reintroduction projects of a non-migratory flock in Louisiana and of a migratory flock of Whooping Cranes in the eastern part of the US will be discussed. Enter through front doors at school. Follow sign to staff development room. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m.

Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097.



January 19 – FRIDAY – 7:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP – Youths Welcome!

Elms Environmental Center, St. Mary’s County

49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628

“Owl Prowl at The Elms”

Leader(s): Bob Boxwell and Margarita Rochow

Come “call out” the owls!! Dress appropriately for the weather, and avoid noisy clothing. This event is weather dependent. Rain or high winds will result in cancellation. Directions: Take Rt 235 south, left onto St. James Church Road (opposite Mattapany Rd). See the sign for The Elms Environmental Education Center. Meet in the hunter’s dirt parking lot on the right 100 yards before the gate (**Do not drive past the gate!**) RSVP to Bob Boxwell at Bobboxwell@hotmail.com or 410-610-5124.

January 21 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

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

2301 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607

“Winter Waterfowl and Resident Birds”

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler and Mark Rositol

Joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society. The varied habitat of water, woods, farm fields and edges provide for a great variety of birds. See fergusonfoundation.org for directions. Bill Townsend, HBF Educator Associate will meet you at the entrance (red Chevy). No fee. Limit to 20 participants. RSVP to Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

January 28 – SUNDAY – 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 offers close views of waterfowl. Loons, mergansers, seaducks and dabblers are likely, often in great numbers. Call or email Tyler for directions to the meeting location. RSVP to Tyler Bell at tylerbell@yahoo.com or 301-862-4623.

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

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Southern MD Higher Education Center,

St. Mary’s County, Bldg I, Room 123

44219 Airport Road, California, MD 20619

“A FEATHERED FRIEND MOVIE NIGHT! NATURE: ANIMAL HOMES, EPISODE 1, THE NEST”

Bring the family for movie night. This is episode 1 of 3 from the Nature series Animal Homes. Bird nests come in all shapes and sizes, crafted from an inexhaustible diversity of materials, both natural and man-made. We begin with a museum collection of nests and branch out to scenes in the wild, where birds arrive at diverse nesting grounds to collect, compete for, reject, steal and begin to build with carefully selected materials, crafting homes for the all-important task of protecting their eggs and raising their young. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).



February 10 – SATURDAY – 7:00 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. 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 supports our Raptor Conservation Fund. RSVP to Mike at raptorsrulemc@gmail.com or 240-765-5192.

February 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

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. Preregistration 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 kyle.rambo@navy.mil or 301-757-0005.

March 8 – THURSDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Fairview Branch Library, Calvert County

8120 Southern Maryland Blvd, Owings, MD 20736

“BIRDS & GLASS COLLISIONS – WHAT YOU CAN DO”

ANNE LEWIS, President, City Wildlife, Inc.

Each year we lose as many as 1 billion birds to deadly glass collisions. Anne Lewis will talk about findings in their Lights Out DC bird collision monitoring program. You can also learn how to make glass in your home more bird friendly for spring migrants. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).



March 18 – SUNDAY – 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

FAMILY FIELD TRIP – Youths Welcome!

Port Tobacco River Park, Charles County

7685 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

“Eagle Nest Monitoring”

Leader: Lynne Wheeler and Lee Vines

Join us for an informative view of our Port Tobacco River Park eagle nest and learn about the **Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership** citizen-science monitoring program. Volunteers document the nesting success and productivity of Maryland’s Bald Eagle population to help guide conservation actions. An active monitoring program is vital to knowing when and where changes to breeding eagles are taking place. RSVP to Lynne at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

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

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Clearwater Nature Center, Prince Georges County

11400 Thrift Rd, Clinton, MD 20735

“HUMMINGBIRDS – HOW TO ATTRACT THEM & NATIVE PLANT SALE”

BRUCE PETERJOHN, Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Our speaker administers the national bird banding program and the data management system for bird banding. His personal banding activities are focused on banding hummingbirds in the mid-Atlantic region, especially hummingbirds that appear during late autumn and winter. Bruce will give a general talk about hummingbirds and how to attract them to your yard with native plants. We will also have a **native plant sale**, SMD Audubon Society fundraiser. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

April 15 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP – Youths Welcome!

Port Tobacco River Park, Charles County

7685 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

“Birding 101”

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler, Lee Vines and Tiffany Farrell

Come on out to the new Charles county nature park and learn the basics about birding. We will discuss the four keys to identification of birds: size and shape, color pattern, behavior, and habitat. We will also delve into looking for field marks and listening to the sound of birds. The timing of this should also give us the possibility of seeing spring migrants. Bring your binoculars, but we also have some to lend. RSVP to Lynne at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

EARTH DAY SPECIAL EVENTS APRIL 22

April 22- SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 11:00 A.M.

FIELD TRIP – Youths Welcome!

Port Tobacco River Park, Charles County

“Eagles and Migrants on the Trails”

7685 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

Leader: Lynne Wheeler

Come and join us as we enjoy looking for migrating birds and check our eagle nest. No rsvp – just show up!



April 22 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP

Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary’s County

44300 Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, MD 20636

“Eagles, Earth Day and Sotterley”

Leader(s): David Moulton

Celebrate Earth Day with a birdwalk at this scenic and historic Patuxent River property as the annual surge of migrating birds begins. Nesting Bald Eagles, migrating warblers, meadowlarks, woodpeckers and waterfowl are expected. From Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through the gates to the gravel parking lot on the Sotterley historic property. RSVP at 240-278-4473 or moulton.davidh@gmail.com

April 28 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP - Youths Welcome!

Elms Environmental Education Center, St. Mary’s Co

49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628

“Birding 101”

Leader(s): Judy Ferris and Margarita Rochow

Calling on all wannabe birders! Do you want to get better at knowing what birds you are seeing? The Elms Environmental Education Center offers great habitat for birds. Judy and Margarita will share helpful identification pointers such as: bird bill and facial markings, plumage details, field marks, flight patterns, sound, behavior, and habitat and seasonal expectation. Directions: Take Rt 235 south, left onto St. James Church Road (opposite Mattapany Road). You will see the sign for the Elms Environmental Education Center. Meet in the hunter’s dirt parking lot on the right before the gate. Call or email Judy: jferris11@gmail.com or 410-326-1965.

May 2 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Charles Soil Conservation District, Charles County

4200 Gardiner Road, Waldorf, MD 20601

“THE HUMANE GARDENER”

NANCY LAWSON, Author and Gardener

Welcome in your gardening season with the author of The Humane Gardener, Nancy Lawson, as she describes why and how you should open up your arms to wildlife in your backyard. Learn how to apply ecology in planting for wildlife by choosing native plant species. We will also have a **native plant sale**, SMD Audubon Society fundraiser. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).



May 12 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

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

“Spring Migration on the Bay”

Leader: Dean Newman

A rare opportunity to bird the PAX River Naval Air Station, a restricted-access area of bird-friendly habitats that boasts one of the longest lists of