

The Osprey



April 2010 VOLUME 40, ISSUE 7

<http://somdaudubon.org/>

Newsletter of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society

THE PASSING OF A VALUED MEMBER OF SMAS

I am forwarding the news of the passing of Oscar Ghebelian, husband of Carol Ghebelian our Membership and Archives Chairperson.

Oscar's contribution to our organization was not only his support of Carol's efforts, but he was someone who could be relied on to chip in and help when an activity needed him.

Oscar helped with SMAS's yearly yard sale. He had decades of experience in antique sales and he shared this to make the yard sale more advantageous to SMAS.

He helped man the booth at the River ArtsFest every year.

Oscar always showed up with donuts and such to the Potomac River cleanup site sponsored by SMAS.

We give thanks for his many years of co-hosting the Tally Rally for the Fort Belvoir Christmas Count. Many have asked me to make sure there are extra thanks for his preparing and sharing of his Turkish-style baklava, of which he was the master, enjoyed by all.

Although we will miss Oscar at these events, we can feel lucky we had his help, advice, and company to enjoy for many years.

On the behalf of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society
Bob Lukinic, President

Memorial contributions may be sent to:
St. Paul Armenian Apostolic Church
310 North Geddes Street
Syracuse, NY 13204

DNR ANNOUNCES 2010 MIDWINTER WATERFOWL SURVEY RESULTS

Annapolis, MD (March 8, 2010) — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have released the results of the 2010 Midwinter Waterfowl Survey. Each winter, pilots and biologists from the two agencies count ducks, geese and swans along Maryland's Chesapeake Bay shoreline and

Atlantic coast. In January 2010, the survey teams observed 787,100 waterfowl, slightly lower than the number of waterfowl observed in January 2009.

"When pooled with results from other states, the Midwinter Waterfowl Survey provides a long-term measure of the distribution and population size of most waterfowl species wintering in the Atlantic Flyway," said Larry Hindman, DNR Waterfowl Project Leader.

The number of Mallards counted in this year's survey (34,200) was significantly lower than 2009 (58,300). The [American] Black Duck count (22,500) slightly declined from last winter, when 24,900 were counted. "Extensive ice coverage of Chesapeake Bay waters, rivers and estuarine marshes led to reduced open water and lower numbers for several duck species this year," Hindman said.

Overall, fewer diving ducks were counted (102,000) in 2010 than last winter (157,600). Most of this decline can be attributed to the lower numbers of Redheads, Canvasbacks, scaup and Ruddy Ducks observed. Extensive ice in the Chester River prevented diving duck use of this major wintering area favored by Canvasbacks and scaup. Other environmental factors that influence the number of Canvasbacks and other divers in the Chesapeake Bay are the conditions of the staging areas on the upper Mississippi River and Lake St. Claire in southern Ontario. Above average numbers of Canvasbacks were recorded on surveys of those areas this year.

There was a slight increase in number of Canada Geese counted by the survey crews. Despite a poor nesting season, wintering Canada Geese (519,500) remained high and were likely bolstered by migrant geese pushed south by cold temperatures and snow north of Maryland.

The Midwinter Waterfowl Survey has been conducted annually throughout the United States since the early 1950s. The survey provides information on long-term trends in waterfowl populations and is the only source of population estimates for important species such as Atlantic Brant and Tundra Swans.

For the full species tally, please go to:

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/dnrnews/pressrelease2010/030810a.asp>

Contact: Josh Davidsburg
410-260-8002 (office) or 410-507-7526 (cell)
jdavidsburg@dnr.state.md.us

**BREAKING NEWS:
LATEST STATE OF THE BIRDS REVEALS
IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON BIRDS**

From the National Audubon Society

On March 11, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar released the 2010 State of the Birds Report, showing that climate change will have an increasing impact on birds and their habitat. It issues an urgent call for a sound climate and energy policy that will reduce carbon pollution and for strategic conservation investments that will help species adapt to a changing climate. If we can help the birds weather this unprecedented threat, we can help ourselves.

This is the second U.S. State of the Birds Report; the first, issued in 2009, provided a comprehensive description of patterns of change in United States bird populations over the last half of the 20th century, documenting changes in overall bird populations in major biomes and habitats in the United States.

For the 2010 report, Audubon joined its partners from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, American Bird Conservancy, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Klamath Bird Observatory, and other organizations to assess and analyze the vulnerability of all U.S. birds to climate change, based on impacts to the habitats they depend on. This assessment provides an unprecedented and vital tool for conservation planning. Find out more: <http://stateofthebirds.org>



Seabirds like this Laysan Albatross that are restricted to nesting on low-lying islands are in danger of losing their breeding habitat as sea levels rise. *Credit: FWS/Michael Lusk*

**SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON
SOCIETY HORSESHOE CRAB-MIGRATORY
SHOREBIRD TRIP**

Friday May 7, Saturday May 8 & Sunday May 9, 2010

Spawning horseshoe crabs and migrating shorebirds are the targets for the field trip to Delaware Bay, where we will observe thousands of migrating shorebirds, including Red Knots, feasting along the shore on just-laid horseshoe crab eggs.

Reservations required. Reserve with the trip leader, Millie Kriemelmeyer, 301-372-8766, milliek@radix.net.

Fri. May 7 – Recommend overnight lodging in Dover, 1st choice is Comfort Inn, 222 South DuPont Highway, 302-674-3300. I will be staying at the Comfort Inn. Reserve at the Comfort Inn now. Dover hotels are fully booked this busy weekend.

Sat. May 8 – 7:30 AM - Meet Dean Newman & Millie Kriemelmeyer at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge visitor center to see spring migrants. Bombay Hook NWR address: 2591 Whitehall Neck Rd, Smyrna, DE 19977; 301-653-6872.

Sat. May 8 – Meet for dinner at Pizza Delight by Giacomo, Lebanon Valley Rd (Route 10), South Dover, DE 19904-9810; 302-698-1500. (Time TBA) Travel to Pickering Beach for night high tide & horseshoe crab spawning.

Sun. May 9 – Meet at Pickering Beach for daytime high tide & photo opportunity of spawning horseshoe crabs & feeding shorebirds, followed by visit to the DuPont Nature Center, Mispillion, Lighthouse Rd, Milford. (Time TBA)

Be ready for any weather! Bring a warm coat, hat, gloves, boots, rain gear, flashlight & folding chair (for the beach).

Recommend you purchase the De Lorme Maryland-Delaware Atlas.

POTOMAC RIVER CLEANUP

It is again the time of the year for the Potomac River Cleanup. This year's cleanup will be on April 10 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon, rain or shine.

The site at Marshall Hall Park is again being sponsored by our Southern Maryland Audubon Society. SMAS will furnish drinks and snacks. Representatives will be at the sign-in table and through the park to help with whatever is needed.

Gloves and trash bags are furnished through the Alice Ferguson Foundation and Charles County Public Works.

In previous years, many volunteers participated in the cleanup including: students working on their community service requirements, scout troops, church groups, and businesses, as well as residents of all ages interested in the environment in which we live. Every year after the volunteers are done there is such a great difference in the appearance, safety, and usefulness of the shoreline. SMAS hopes that concerned residents will again show up to help heal the Potomac.

If you want further information please contact me.

Site Coordinator

Bob Lukinic

Phone 301-283-6317

E-mail rlukinic@peoplepc.com

MD-SMAS LISTSERVE INFO

I'd like to introduce any of you who are not familiar with our listserve. Welcome to MD-SMAS, the email discussion list for Audubon in Southern Maryland, where you can:

- * share timely information about Southern Maryland environmental issues
- * compare notes about Southern Maryland Audubon chapter activities,
- * discuss birds and birding in Southern Maryland, and
- * stay in touch with the Southern Maryland Audubon Society Board of Directors

The discussions are meant to be free-ranging but should generally center around local, state and national issues that affect the Southern Maryland environment. Through

sharing information, we all become more effective in our Audubon efforts!

The MD-SMAS mailing list will function as a large e-mail distribution list, linking the people of Southern Maryland Audubon.

List Owner:
Tyler Bell
E-mail: jtylerbell@yahoo.com
Southern Maryland Audubon Society

Group Email Addresses

Post message: md-smas@yahoogroups.com
Subscribe: md-smas-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Unsubscribe: md-smas-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com
List owner: md-smas-owner@yahoogroups.com

This may be your
LAST OSPREY NEWSLETTER
if you don't respond to the following request.

The day has finally arrived for the Osprey newsletter to take the leap into the electronic age by offering a digital format option for Southern Maryland Audubon members. The Board of Directors asks that you please, please fill out the form below and return it to the email or snail-mail address provided. By NOT returning this form you risk missing out on future issues of the Osprey newsletter! We tried to keep it short, sweet and to the point so please fill it out and send it in as soon as you can. We hope to have everything in place to begin the electronic distribution option in the new year. See the back of this page for instructions on sending in the form.

NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

Paper copy of Osprey Email with notice that new Osprey is online for download Email with Osprey attached as PDF file

If you would like to email your information please send a message to the following email address:

OSPREY@SOMDAUDUBON.ORG

Be sure to include your name, mailing address (so we can keep our database up-to-date), email address and how you would like to receive your future Ospreys.

ANYONE can email their information, even if you prefer to keep getting paper copies of the Osprey.

If you would like to mail in your form please remove this page after filling in your information, put it in an envelope and send it to the address below. And don't forget the stamp!

Osprey Newsletter
C/O Chris Ordiway
2305 Bryan Point Road
Accokeek, Maryland 20607

We'd like to extend a special 'Thank You' to those who responded to last year's request for member's thoughts on the electronic Osprey. It helped to make the Board of Directors job easier knowing members were in favor of the idea.

RETURNING RARITY ROUNDUP!

Greater White-fronted Goose – seen first in Solomons just south of the bridge then relocated in Lusby on Turner Road. This is possibly a returning bird which was seen last year in the same field near the bridge.

Baltimore Oriole – at the home of Hal and Nancy Delaplaine of La Plata This is his 5th winter according to Hal.



photo by Hal Delaplaine

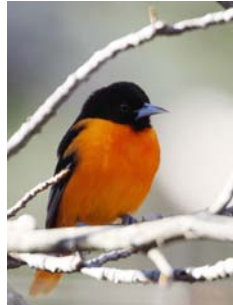


photo by George Jett

Yellow-throated Warbler – at the home of Carol Ghebelian. Another bird returning for its 5th winter!



photo by George Jett

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Mary Alfonte, Solomons
 Joy Bartholomew, Port Republic
 Lisa Beckert, Brandywine
 Juliet Brown, Avenue
 Dorothy Butterfield, Avenue
 Johanna Cunning, Lusby
 Noreen Dobson, Solomons
 Catherine Fowler, Mechanicsville
 Robert Griffith, White Plains
 Victor Hensley, Chesapeake Beach
 Sandra Hobbs, Huntingtown
 Karine Ingersoll, Leonardtown
 Hattie Ison, Waldorf
 Steve Klotz, Colton's Point
 Curt/Judy Larsen, Lusby
 Elaine McConkey, Waldorf
 Timothy McNutt, Waldorf
 Sharon Ryon, Huntingtown
 Mary Tippett, Waldorf

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

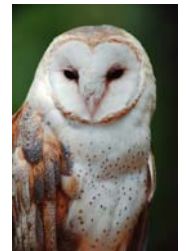


Southern Maryland Audubon Society sponsors the banding of nestling birds of prey, or raptors, with serially numbered aluminum bands in cooperation with the Bird Banding Laboratory of the U. S. Department of the Interior, as part of our bird research and conservation activities in Southern Maryland. Limited numbers of Osprey and Barn Owl nestlings become available each year for adoption. The gift of \$10 for an Osprey adoption, or of \$25 for a Barn Owl adoption, contributes to a special fund for the support of raptor research and raptor conservation projects. 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, photo of a fledgling, and any other information on whereabouts or fate of the bird that may be available.

Interested? Here's how to become a foster parent of an Osprey or a Barn Owl. Send \$10.00 for each Osprey, or \$25 for each Barn Owl to:

Southern Maryland Audubon Society
 ATTN: Adoption Program
 c/o Heather Burk
 11885 Provident Drive
 La Plata, MD 20646-5416



ADOPT A RAPTOR

Name: _____

Address: _____

I wish to adopt (check one):

_____ (number of) Osprey, \$10.00 each

_____ (number of) Barn Owl, \$25.00 each

Amount Enclosed: _____

(Make checks payable to:

Southern Maryland Audubon Society)

APRIL EVENTS

NEW!

For Beginners Only. Custom one-on-one (or two) trips in PG, Charles and St. Mary's Counties. If you feel that you would benefit from some individual attention to ease you up the learning curve of bird identification, we have three leaders who will help you. Contact leaders to make arrangements:

Charles - Jean Artes (301-743-2288, pojartes@aol.com).
Southern PG and Northern Charles - Chris Ordiway (301-203-8014, BirdRamble@strixvaria.org (email use preferred)).
St. Mary's - Patty Craig (eyrie@hughes.net (email only)).

March 20 - Saturday - 8 AM - noon

Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary's County. Field Trip
"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. Call the leader for reservations and security details before February 28. You must sign up for this trip in advance and provide your social security number. Facilities and no fee.

APRIL 7 - WEDNESDAY - 7:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center, Calvert County
Gray's Road off Sixes Road, Prince Frederick, MD

"*The Maryland Wood Duck Initiative: its Mission, Results, and Management Practices*" CLIFF BROWN, *Executive Director, Maryland Wood Duck Initiative* Started in 2004 as an all volunteer effort, MWDI now has more than 77 project sites across Maryland involving some 1700+ nest

boxes. These boxes have produced more than 13,000 incremental ducklings since the 2005 nest season. The talk will cover MWDI's scope of operations as well as best practices that should be utilized to start and manage artificial nesting programs.

April 24 - Saturday - 8 AM - noon

Myrtle Point Park, St. Mary's County. Field Trip
"SPRING ALONG THE PATUXENT" Leader: Mary Piotrowski (301-472-4091, blackbearmary@hotmail.com). From Rts. 4 & 235, go north on Rt. 4. Turn left onto Patuxent Blvd. and drive to the end where the road enters Myrtle Point. Park in the first parking lot on the left. We will be looking for early spring migrants and enjoying lovely views of the river. No facilities, no fee. RSVP required.

Continued on page 5

EDITOR: Tyler Bell
23035 Forest Way, California, MD 20619
Telephone: (301) 862-4623
E-mail: itylerbell@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.

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

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