

December 2 – FRIDAY – 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Myrtle Point Park, St. Mary's County  
24050 Patuxent Blvd, California, MD 20619  
"WINTER OWL PROWL ON MYRTLE POINT"

Youths Welcome!

Leader: Bob Boxwell

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, so please RSVP with good phone/email address. To find Myrtle Point Park, take Rt. 4 in St. Mary's County to Patuxent Boulevard, and follow to the end. RSVP to Bob Boxwell at 443-404-5549 or [Bobboxwell@hotmail.com](mailto:Bobboxwell@hotmail.com)

December 7 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

St. Francis de Sales Community Building,  
Charles County, MD

7185 Benedict Avenue, Benedict, MD 20612  
(church address, community building is past the church)

"OSPREYS ON THE PATUXENT"

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

Join us to learn about Ospreys, the often-seen "fish hawk" of local rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, with photos by Greg Kearns. His program will cover Osprey biology on the Patuxent River, the provision of nesting platforms, efforts to increase their numbers, his banding program with the public, re-introduction efforts, satellite tracking of migration and other interesting facts. He promises "You will be on the edge of your seat as you learn more about this unique species of raptor." SMAS will be offering a variety of Osprey oriented holiday gifts for purchase.

December 9 – FRIDAY – 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

The Elms Environmental Education Center,  
St. Mary's County  
49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628

"WINTER OWL PROWL AT  
THE ELMS ENVIRONMENTAL ED CENTER"

Leaders: Bob Boxwell and Margarita Rochow

Come "call out" the owls!! Youths especially welcome. 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, so please RSVP with good phone/email address. Directions: 49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628. Take Rt 235 south, then left onto St. James Church road (opposite Mattapan Road). You will see the sign for the Elms Environmental Education Center. We will meet in the "hunter's parking lot" on the right about 100 yards before the gate. RSVP to Bob Boxwell at 443-404-5549 or [Bobboxwell@hotmail.com](mailto:Bobboxwell@hotmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS  
2016-2017

Please join us and help count birds for the 117<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count. Come and participate in one of the largest and oldest citizen science programs. Beginner birders welcome. Contact coordinator below.

December 18 .....Port Tobacco CBC  
(Gwen Brewer, [3wigeons@verizon.net](mailto:3wigeons@verizon.net))

December 18 .....Point Lookout CBC  
(Bob Boxwell, [Bobboxwell@hotmail.com](mailto:Bobboxwell@hotmail.com))

January 1 .....Patuxent River CBC  
(Andy Brown, [brownaj@co.cal.md.us](mailto:brownaj@co.cal.md.us))

January 2 .....FT. Belvoir/ MD shoreline CBC  
(Lynne Wheeler, [comstockel@aol.com](mailto:comstockel@aol.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.

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 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 support our cause. See our website or newsletter for adoption details.

2016-2017 OFFICERS

President, Lynne Wheeler  
301-743-3236

Secretary, Julie Daniel  
240-346-1931

Past President, Michael Patterson  
301-908-7700

Vice-President, Bob Lukinic  
301-283-6317

Treasurer, Will Daniel  
571-237-1122

DIRECTORS

Michael Patterson  
301-908-7700

Tiffany Farrell  
301-609-1345

Margarita Rochow  
240-577-1748

Julie Simpson  
301-643-0317

Carole Schnitzler  
301-266-3966

Lee Vines  
301-752-4976

COMMITTEES

ARCHIVES

Lynne Wheeler  
301-743-3236

CONSERVATION

Chair: Bob Lukinic  
301-283-6317

EDUCATION

Chair: Nicole Patterson  
301-752-2923

FIELD TRIPS

David Moulton  
240-278-4473

FINANCE

Nancy Megas  
240-377-6024

RAPTOR CONSERVATION

Mike Callahan  
240-765-5192

Adopt-a-Raptor

Carole Schnitzler  
301-266-3966

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Tyler Bell  
301-862-4623

PUBLICITY

Nancy Megas  
240-377-6024

SMAS SPECIAL ADVISOR

Carol Ghebelian  
301-753-6754

SOCIAL MEDIA

Nancy Megas  
240-377-6024

PROGRAMS

Open

MEMBERSHIP

Chair: Lynne Wheeler  
301-743-3236

HOSPITALITY

Robbi Ross  
703-402-9121

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. 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



2016 FALL FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

Find us on...



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

**September 7 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

### MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

**Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, Calvert County**  
2880 Grays Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

**“KESTRELS: JET FIGHTERS OF THE FIELD”**

GENE GROSHON, *Naturalist, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

The American Kestrel is a native falcon known by many as the “Sparrowhawk”. Once a common bird in our area, their numbers are now in decline. We will discuss the life history of these beautiful birds and how we are trying to bring back their numbers. Mingling and refreshments start at 7 p.m.

**September 10 – SATURDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon**

### FIELD TRIP

**Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert County**

9500 H.G. Trueman Parkway, Lusby, MD 20657

**“FALL MIGRATION”**

Leaders: Judy Ferris and Jan Degeneffe

Neotropical migrants should be near their peak. We expect to see warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and other songbirds. Good trails through wooded habitat and along the creek. Take Rt. 2/4 south of Prince Frederick for about 14 miles. Follow signs to the park. Meet leaders in parking lot. Facilities and fee, 3 mile round trip. RSVP to Judy at 410-326-1965 or [jferris11@gmail.com](mailto:jferris11@gmail.com)

**September 11 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon**

### FIELD TRIP

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

21967 Cuddihy Road, Patuxent River, MD 20670

**“GRASSPIPERS”**

Leader: Kyle Rambo

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 – contact [kyle.rambo@navy.mil](mailto:kyle.rambo@navy.mil), 301-757-0005. Open only to US citizens. Must bring a photo ID.

**September 17 – SATURDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon**

### FIELD TRIP

**Point Lookout State Park, St. Mary’s County**

11175 Point Lookout Road, Scotland, MD 20687

**“MIGRATION ON THE POINT”**

Leader: Tyler Bell

Join us at Southern Maryland’s premier birding hotspot as fall migrants funnel south to cross the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac

River. Loblolly pines, mixed hardwoods, beaches, marshes and broad water views regularly deliver a wide variety of species and occasional rarities. From Lexington Park, drive south on Rte. 235 for 13 miles. Go left on Rte. 5 for 5 miles to the end. Meet leader at park entrance parking lot. Fee area. RSVP to Tyler at 301-862-4623 or [jtylberbell@yahoo.com](mailto:jtylberbell@yahoo.com).

**September 18 – SUNDAY – 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

### FIELD TRIP

**Smith Island from Point Lookout State Park dock,  
St. Mary’s County**

11175 Point Lookout Road, Scotland, MD 20687

**“SMITH ISLAND CAKE WALK”**

Leader: Millie Kriemelmeyer

This is our inaugural SMAS outing to Smith Island, an isolated fishing community with a rich history, a centuries-old brogue dialect, and abundant birdlife. The island is 20 miles across from St. Mary’s, reachable only by boat. Be at the Point Lookout State Park dock by 10 am. After a 1.5 hour boat ride, we will reach Ewell on the island by noon. After lunch at the Bayside Restaurant birders can choose to either explore by golf cart or bicycle rental the path to Rhodes Point beside the marsh. Non-birders can visit the museum. We will return to the boat at 2:00 p.m. and arrive back to Point Lookout by 4:30 pm. Directions to Point Lookout dock: Drive south from Lexington Park on Rte. 235 for 13 miles. Go left on Rte. 5 for 5 miles to the park entrance. Pay fee and continue south to store and docks. Costs: \$5 per vehicle at Point Lookout State Park entrance; Assuming the group is at least 15 persons, the roundtrip boat to Smith Island will cost \$38 per adult (\$18 for child age 3-11) exact cash to trip leader Millie; Add \$20 for lunch (add \$3 for Smith Island cake.) Golf cart or bicycle rental is optional. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. PLEASE CONTACT MILLIE KRIELEMMEYER BY SEPTEMBER 12 at [mkriemelmeyer@me.com](mailto:mkriemelmeyer@me.com) or 301-372-8766 to reserve a spot and to choose from 2 lunch options.**

**September 18 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

### FIELD TRIP

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

44300 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636

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

Leaders: David Moulton and Michael Patterson

Join us for a fall excursion to this scenic and historic Patuxent River property. Bald Eagles, migrant songbirds and lingering meadowlarks and sparrows can be found via Sotterley’s trails and river views. Directions: From Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road; turn right through gates to the Sotterley Plantation visitors’ center parking lot. RSVP to David at [moulton.davidh@gmail.com](mailto:moulton.davidh@gmail.com) or 240-278-4473.

**October 2 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon**

### FIELD TRIP

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

Exact location and directions given upon reservation

**“SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS AND MIGRANTS”**

Leader: Bob Boxwell

Cove Point beach and marsh is a unique habitat on the Western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. A living shoreline project is helping to restore the fresh water marsh from salt water incursion. We will target sparrows, marsh inhabitants and migrants. This is a restricted area and we are limited to ten guests. RSVP by September 25th to Bob at 443-404-5549 or [bobboxwell@hotmail.com](mailto:bobboxwell@hotmail.com)

**October 5 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

### MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

**Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert County**

1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, Lusby, MD 20657

**“Brown Pelicans of the Chesapeake Bay”**

DAVE BRINKER, Ecologist,

MD DNR Natural Heritage Program

During the mid-1900s Brown Pelicans seriously declined along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States and were eventually listed as a threatened species. Historically, pelicans had never been recorded as a nesting species in Maryland or anywhere to the north. As pelican populations were recovering from the impacts of DDT, Dave discovered Maryland’s first Brown Pelican nesting in 1987. Since wandering into the Middle Atlantic states, Brown Pelican populations have increased dramatically. The remarkable expansion of local Brown Pelicans in the region will be presented. Come learn how adults feed tiny chicks, and where Maryland nesting pelicans spend their winters, along with other snippets of the natural history of this facilitating water bird. Mingling and refreshments start at 7 p.m.

**October 15 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon**

### FIELD TRIP

**Elms Environmental Education Center, St. Mary’s County**

49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628

**“BIRDING 101” - Youths Welcome!**

Leader(s): Bob Boxwell and Margarita Rochow

Calling on all wannabe birders!! Are you tired of saying, “What bird is that?” Do you want to get better at knowing what birds you are seeing? Birding 101 is the field trip for you! The more you walk the walk, the better you become! The location at the Elms Environmental Education Center offers a great habitat for birds. Bob and Margarita will point out helpful identification points such as: bird bill and facial markings, plumage details, field marks, flight patterns, sound, behavior, and habitat and seasonal expectation. Learn about birding apps too. Directions: 49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628. Take Rt 235 south, then left onto St. James Church road (opposite Mattapany Road). You will see the sign for the Elms Environmental Education Center. Meet at the “hunter’s parking lot” on the right, 100 yards before the gate. RSVP to Bob Boxwell at 443-404-5549 or [Bobboxwell@hotmail.com](mailto:Bobboxwell@hotmail.com)

**October 23 – SUNDAY – 8 am – 12 noon**

### FIELD TRIP

**Newtowne Neck State Park, St. Mary’s County**

MD 243, Compton, MD 20627

**“BIRDING NEWTOWNE’S FIELDS,  
FORESTS AND BAYS”**

Leader: David Moulton

A peninsula defined by Breton Bay, the Potomac River and St. Clements Bay, this 776-acre property of woodlands, wetlands and agricultural fields offers a wide variety of birding habitats. Newtowne was the first settlement in the Maryland province after St. Mary’s City. Owned for nearly 3 centuries by the Jesuits, the land was reclaimed as a state park in 2009 to protect it from development. Take rte. 5 west from Leonardtown. Turn left (south) on Rte. 243 (Newtowne Neck Road) for 4.5 miles to parking lot just beyond St. Francis Xavier’s Church. RSVP to David Moulton at 240-278-4473 or [moulton.davidh@gmail.com](mailto:moulton.davidh@gmail.com).

**October 29 – SATURDAY – 12:00-3:00 p.m.**

### FIELD TRIP

**Mallows Bay Park, Charles County**

1440 Wilson Landing Road, Nanjemoy, MD 20662

**“BOO!! THE GHOSTS OF MALLOWS BAY”**

*Youths Welcome!*

Leader: Lynne Wheeler

What better way to enjoy Halloween than to visit the “Ghost Fleet” of Mallows Bay and scare upsome birds! Walk with the Southern Maryland Audubon Society at Mallows Bay Park and learn about shipwrecks, archaeological sites, and wildlife all situated in a unique wetland, woodland and aquatic habitat which includes an evolving ecosystem. Come and enjoy the numerous Osprey and Bald Eagles soaring above, along with a discussion of the history of the fleet. The trip will include a bird walk on the park’s one-mile trail where we will look for migrants, snatch final peeks at our summer friends, and welcome in our winter residents. RSVP to Lynne up to 10:00 a.m. Saturday 301-751-8097 or [comstockel@aol.com](mailto:comstockel@aol.com).

**November 2 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

### MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

**Historic Port Tobacco Courthouse, Charles County, MD**

8430 Commerce Street, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

**“NATIVE GRASSLAND RESTORATION, MANAGEMENT  
AND AVIAN STUDIES AT THE CHESTER RIVER  
RESEARCH STATION”**

DAN SMALL, *Field Ecologist,*

*Center of Environment and Society, Washington College*

This program is being hosted by the Port Tobacco River Conservancy. Dan Small is a field ecologist for the Center of Environment and Society at Washington College, located on the eastern shore of Maryland. The land-based research arm of CES, the Chester River Field Research Station conducts research on breeding bird response to a long term grassland restoration project and also operates a migration banding station. During the summer months, he can be found out in the native warm season grassland leading undergraduate interns through the fields studying breeding grassland birds. He is a NABC certified trainer and has been banding and birding for around 15 years. Dan will also inform us of his latest efforts in working with landowners to add habitat to their land that will be beneficial for grassland birds as well as helping to improve water quality.

**November 19 – SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m. - 12 Noon**

### FIELD TRIP

**Mattawoman Wildlands, Marbury, Charles County**

Meeting location Lackey High School parking lot,  
Indian Head, MD 20640

**“EARLY WATERFOWL AND LATE MIGRANTS  
ON THE GEORGE WILMOT TRAIL”**

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler and Bob Lukinic

This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society and the Southern MD Audubon Society. We usually expect large concentrations of waterfowl on the Mattawoman Creek, along with songbirds, woodpeckers (some red-headed), and raptors. Meet at Lackey High School parking lot, 3000 Chicamuxen Road, Indian Head, MD 20640 at 7:45 a.m. Bring waterproof shoes or low boots, and dress for possible wind. Be prepared for a one-mile walk to and from the head of the trail, and then a half-mile walk on uneven forest trail. Make reservation with Lynne at 301-751-8097 or [comstockel@aol.com](mailto:comstockel@aol.com).