

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 2014/2014.

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
Chris Ordiway 301-267-7803
Melissa Boyle 443-340-3035
Andy Brown 443-624-3687
Margarita Rochow 240-577-1748
Open

COMMITTEES

ARCHIVES
Carol Gheblian
301-753-6754

CONSERVATION
Chair: Bob Lukinic
301-283-6317

EDUCATION
Chair: Michael Patterson
301-752-5763

FIELD TRIPS
Melissa Boyle
443-340-3035

FINANCE
Paula Willoughby
301-862-9631

RAPTOR CONSERVATION
Mike Callahan
240-765-5192

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Tyler Bell
301-862-4623

PUBLICITY
Nancy Megas
240-377-6024

SOCIAL MEDIA
Chris Ordiway
240-377-7768

PROGRAMS
Jean Artes
240-274-9789

MEMBERSHIP
Co-Chair: Carol Gheblian
301-753-6754
Co-Chair: Lynne Wheeler
301-743-3236

HOSPITALITY
Gwen Brewer
301-843-3524

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



2014 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.

September 3 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30-9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, Charles County
911 Washington Avenue, La Plata, MD 20646

“From Mountains to the Sea: Maryland’s Natural Areas”

KERRY WIXTED, *Biologist II*,

Maryland DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service

Maryland’s Natural Areas encompass 31 unique natural sites (eight of these in our southern region) found across the state that are open to the public. Come and learn about these state and/or federally owned properties that have amazing ecosystems, many which contain rare species, natural features and/or special geological formations. Maryland’s Natural areas consist of ancient maritime forest and more, all of which are teeming with unusual animals and plants. Come at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and mingling.

September 6 - SATURDAY – 8 a.m.-12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert County

“FALL MIGRATION”

Leader: Tyler Bell

Neotropical migrants should be near their peak. 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 leader in parking lot. Facilities and fee, 3 mile round trip. **RSVP** to Tyler at 301-862-4623 or tylerbell@yahoo.com.

September 20 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m.-12 Noon

FIELD TRIP

Gilbert Run Park, Charles County

“WWW: Walk, Water, Woods”

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler and Jean Artes

Come join us for a first in a long time at this Charles County park. We will look for FIDS and migrants on a beautiful 3 mile trail around the 60 acre fresh water lake. The trail is moderate difficulty, not beginner, due to hills and exposed root structure, but gorgeous sections and wonderful avian habitat. The park is located 8 miles east of La Plata on Rt. 6. You can GPS at 13140 Charles Street, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. **RSVP** to Lynne Wheeler at comstockel@aol.com or 301-751-8097.

September 28 – SUNDAY – 8:00-11:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP

Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary’s County

“BIRDING THE FIELDS AND TRAILS OF SOTTERLEY”

Leader(s): 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 extensive trail system. Beginners welcome! 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 or 240-278-4473.

October 1 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30-9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Calvert County Library, Fairview Branch, Calvert County

8120 Southern Maryland Boulevard, Owings, MD 20736

“The Brazilian Pantanal”

DR. GWENDA BREWER AND GEORGE JETT –

Photographers and Naturalists

In July 2013, George and Gwen traveled to the Pantanal region of Brazil in search of unique animals and plants to photograph and study. The focus was wildlife of the region with a great group of geeks: butterfly and dragonfly specialist, botanists, and one of the best mammalogists I know, Fiona Reid. The three-week trip produced some delightful images of birds (Chestnut-eared Aracari), mammals (Jaguar, bats), insects (stinging wasps, tons of butterflies & dragonflies), etc. Gwen and George will also show some of the most magnificent landscapes on our planet, and we are sure of a humorous discussion of the many experiences they enjoyed and endured. Programs start at 7:30 p.m. but please come at 7 p.m. for refreshments and pre-program mingling.

October 4 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m.-12 Noon

FIELD TRIP

Cove Point Beach and Marsh, Calvert County

“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 28th to Bob at 443-404-5549, bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

October 11 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m.-12 Noon

FIELD TRIP

Indian Head Rail Trail, Charles County

“RED-HEADS AND MIGRANTS”

Leader(s): Michael Patterson and Lynne Wheeler

There are areas on the Indian Head Rail Trail (IHRT) that provide us with one of the best hot spots for Red-headed Woodpeckers. This fall trip enables you to enjoy hearing

the chatter of Red-headed juveniles, and of course the fun of fall warbler identification. Meet/park at the parking lot off of MD Rt. 224 and the IHRT (just east of MD Rt. 225). **NO RSVP**. This is an open field trip to enable last minute joining.

November 5 – WEDNESDAY – 7:15*-9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary’s County

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

“Ordinary Extraordinary Junco: Remarkable Biology from a Backyard Bird”

Remarkable Biology from a Backyard Bird”

Come and enjoy this film developed for both the general avian lover and science students and educators. The film highlights past and present biological research on one of the most common and abundant – yet amazing and diverse – groups of songbirds in North America, the Juncos. It explores key themes in animal behavior, ecology, or evolution, and conveys the process of scientific research with high school and college science standards in mind. **Note start time of 7:15 p.m., as the film is 88 minutes long.*

November 16 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m.-12 Noon

FIELD TRIP

Mattawoman Wildlands, Marbury, Charles County

“EARLY WATERFOWL AND LATE MIGRANTS

ON THE GEORGE WILMOT TRAIL”

Leader(s): Gwen Brewer and Carol Gheblian

This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society. We usually expect large concentrations of waterfowl on the Mattawoman Creek, along with songbirds, woodpeckers (some red-headed), and raptors. Dr. Gwen Brewer is one of our top waterfowl identifiers with great eagle eyes! **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am at Burger King (3165 Marshall Hall Rd, Bryans Road, Maryland 20616), on right at MD 210/227. 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 reservations** with co-leader Carol Gheblian at 301-753-6754, gheblian@comcast.net.

December 3 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30-9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary’s County

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

Book presentation-“Birds of a Feather: Seasonal Change on Both Sides of the Atlantic” by Colin Rees and Derek Thomas

We are so pleased to have Colin Rees present to our guests and members an illustrated talk based on this wonderful new book. This informative and beautiful book will appeal to anyone with an interest in birds and their future in North America and the UK. Proceeds from the book sales go to conservation. The presentation starts at 7:30 p.m., refreshments at 7:00 p.m.