

The Osprey

Newsletter of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society



White Peacock
Photo by: Bill Hubick

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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

President's Perch

With the holiday season approaching, it's time to start thinking about the nation's longest-running citizen science bird project. Audubon's 116th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place between December 14 and January 5. This is a great citizen science project that helps researchers monitor bird populations and identify species that are in decline. There are four counts in southern Maryland in which SMAS members can participate. Go to <http://somdaudubon.org/events/2015-12/> for more information on counts in southern Maryland.

One of the most important goals our Board of Directors has for next year is filling some key committee positions that help us achieve our mission. We are looking for a Chair of the Fundraising Committee to help us carry out some of our vital functions as a conservation organization. Fundraising efforts bring in dollars to support activities that help meet our annual objectives. Recently, we made a donation of eight pairs of binoculars to the Friends of Chapman State Park to support youth birding programs. When someone is introduced to birds and nature at an early age, their interest in nature often stays with them into adulthood, even if the interest wanes at some point. Fundraising also helps support our scholarship program to send environmental educators to Hog Island in Maine for nature and ornithology programs. The Fundraising Committee Chair will work with fellow chapter members and the Board to organize fundraisers in the southern Maryland community. In the past, we have held fundraisers at local restaurants, like Texas Roadhouse, sponsored native plant sales, and organized bird-a-thons. We welcome your creativity to create new fundraising events for our chapter.

We are also looking for someone to become Chair of our Habitat Stewardship Committee. We envision this new committee serving as a liaison between SMAS and southern Maryland residents, helping them to establish wildlife habitat on their property using sustainable gardening practices. The committee will provide guidance in offering the four requirements for wildlife habitat: food, water, cover, and places to raise young. Wildlife stewards will also learn the importance of incorporating native plants and avoiding the use of chemicals. The Chair will work with other SMAS members to certify habitats that meet criteria determined by the committee or encourage residents to make changes to benefit wildlife.

Both of these positions are great opportunities for someone who wants to help with local conservation efforts and work with a great group of volunteers. Filling these openings will help the chapter meet its objectives for 2015-2016: fundraising, developing community partnerships that emphasize conservation, and pursuing youth initiatives through programs like Birding 101. We also have other openings on the Board of Directors that may interest you. You can contact me or any other member to discuss a possible position that fits your talents and interests.

After the Christmas Bird Counts in late December and early January, SMAS will be starting a new series of monthly programs and field trips. Look for an updated schedule on the web site in mid-December. We're working on great speakers and topics and the new Field Trip Coordinator is lining up some great birding excursions for the winter and spring. Join us for interesting birds and great company. We wish you peace and joy as you spend the holidays with family, friends, and our feathered companions.

For the Birds,
Michael Patterson

Rarity Roundup by Tyler Bell

This has been an exceptional year for rarities in Maryland. Last winter, a Chestnut-collared Longspur was found in Washington County, the second record for Maryland. Then, a Snowy Plover was located on Hart-Miller Island in Baltimore County, a first state record. Amazing birders because of the odd location, a pair of Brown Boobies, the second record for the state, was found in the inner Harbor of Baltimore in September. The juvenile bird departed but the adult female is still there as of Veterans Day! Also in September, a Reddish Egret was located on Skimmer Island in Ocean City, Worcester County. This bird, a second state record, lingered into October. And finally, a Rock Wren, a second state record, was found in Ocean City. It's hard to say which might be the number one bird since they're all pretty amazing finds.

As I write, a big cold front is pushing into the mid-Atlantic arriving in time for the weekend. Already, over a hundred Cave Swallows have been reported at Cape May, New Jersey. This species is still considered rare in Maryland with a scattering of records mostly in Worcester and St. Mary's (where it was first reported in Maryland back in 2002). If you happen to be birding at Point Lookout State Park and see ANY swallows, carefully scrutinize them. Tree Swallow is possible at this late date but Cave Swallow is almost equally likely!



Rock Wren, Ocean City, MD, 22 October 2015
Photo by George Jett



116th Christmas Bird Count

Dec 20 – Port Tobacco, MD

Compiler: Gwen Brewer, 410-741-9129 or
3wigeons@verizon.net

Dec 27 – Point Lookout, MD

Compiler: Bob Boxwell, 443-404-5549 or
bobboxwell@hotmail.com

Jan 3 – Fort Belvoir, VA and MD

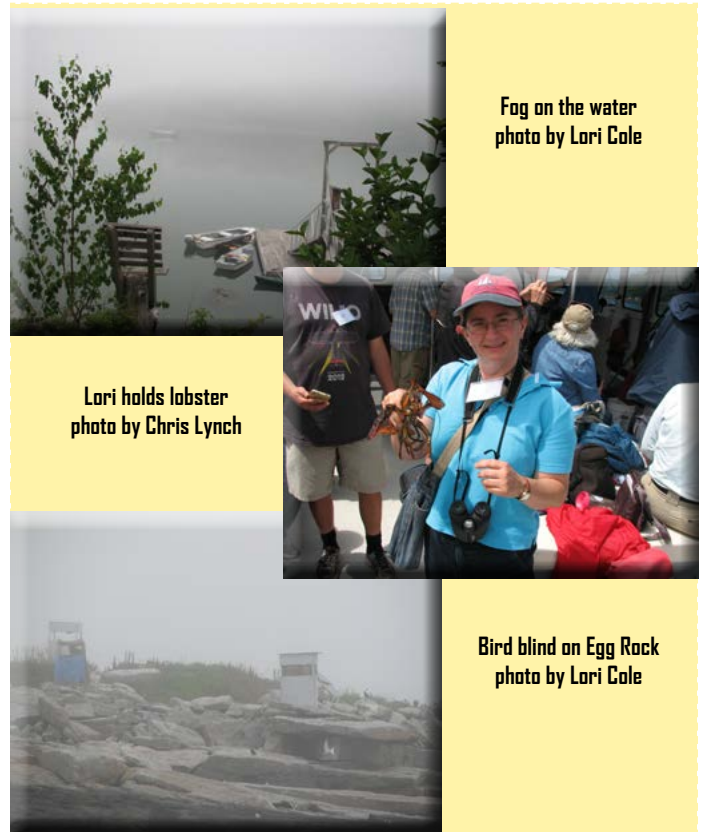
Compiler: Kurt Gaskill, 703-768-2172 or
kurtcapt87@verizon.net

MD Sector Leader: Lynne Wheeler, 301-743-3236 or
comstockel@aol.com

Jan 3 – Patuxent River, MD

Compiler: Andy Brown, 410-535-5327 or
brownaj@co.cal.md.us

Hog Island Audubon Camp, July 2015



Fog on the water
photo by Lori Cole

Lori holds lobster
photo by Chris Lynch

Bird blind on Egg Rock
photo by Lori Cole

Cool Internet Links!

Western Hummingbirds, East

Why is this colorful explosion happening now?:

<http://birdnote.org/show/western-hummingbirds-east>

Stunning Milky Way time-lapse photobombed by Aurora Borealis!

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10153577012364961>

Pet Buggy: Most Intelligent Parrot On Earth

<https://www.facebook.com/PETparadiseWorld/videos/265696156940741/>

Man Rescues Injured Baby Deer And Releases It Back To Mom:

<https://www.facebook.com/DavidAvocadoWolfe/videos/10153082877251512/>

20 Greatest Bird Photobombs Of All Time

http://www.rantpets.com/2015/09/08/15-greatest-bird-photobombs-of-all-time/?utm_campaign=RantPetsFB&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=referral

Nature's greatest artist? One talented little pufferfish hopes to impress a female with his masterpiece:

<https://www.facebook.com/BBCOne/videos/851829108170842/>



Cats Indoors Updates and Alerts: VICTORY IN NEW YORK!

Governor Cuomo this week vetoed legislation that would have dedicated public funding to Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) programs throughout the state. This is a tremendous victory for conservation in New York due in no small part to each of you that took action. Thank you.

According to the governor's veto message, the proposed bill was "problematic" for a number of reasons. First, the bill diverted funds from existing and effective programs. Second, the practice of releasing feral cats into the environment, a core part of TNR programs, is prohibited by law. Third, scientific evidence indicates that TNR does not reduce feral cat populations. Lastly, the governor cited the impacts of feral cats on wildlife, "including threatened and endangered species, habitats, and food sources for native predators."

You can read ABC's press release on the subject [here](#).

Chesapeake Now: Little Wings, Big Story. An Endangered Species on the Rebound Story by Mark Hendricks

Once an endangered species, the Piping Plovers of Assateague Island find sanctuary and are on the rebound

I'm staring through the view finder of my camera, which when attached to a 400mm lens makes an excellent makeshift spotting scope, scanning the beach for the nest of a piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*). The nest is difficult to find, the tiny eggs look more like spotted pebbles and are camouflaged perfectly in the sand. I am in the northern portion of the seashore, an area that plovers have used in seasons past, and this year is no different.

"This is going to be a good day," I say to Kelly Taylor, my guide and the park's science communicator, as the avian team (aka "plover crew") begins to unload their equipment. I am now going to eyewitness conservation in action, amongst the dunes of Maryland's famed barrier island.

The Island & the Plovers

Assateague Island is an ecological wonderland where visitors come from all over the world to experience the park's iconic wild horses and spend the day along its many miles of pristine beach. But beyond the recreational opportunities that abound here, it also serves as critical nesting habitat for some of the region's sensitive avian species, the most notable being the piping plover. The plover is a small—no bigger than 18 centimeters—sand colored shorebird that inhabits Assateague Island from March through September. While most visitors may never have caught a glimpse of one, you have probably unknowingly heard its loquacious peep-lo, peep-lo during a day strolling through the dunes and beach that are required by this bird to successfully procreate.

Yet the story of the plover is one of redemption: a drama where certain extinction caused by human encroachment was avoided because of foresight and human intervention. It was not in the too distant past when the survival of the plover looked grim; population numbers were at record lows. Yet, due to sound scientific-based management, things are looking up for this most adorable looking bird that lives part of its year here in The Free State.

The species experienced its first brush with extinction in the early 20th century due to uncontrolled hunting because, unfortunately for the plovers, their feathers made for popular adornment on not-so-stylish women's hats. Thanks in part to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, this inauspicious fashion statement trends no longer but the second, continuing long-term threat facing the plover does—loss of natural habitat along the Atlantic coast. In the years following World War II, much of the plovers' nesting grounds were lost due to development that coincided with resort communities. What little habitat remained was compromised in part by overly managed, highly groomed beaches for recreational use, which resulted in significant decline to population levels. This, in turn, led the federal government to list the Atlantic Coast population of piping plovers as threatened under provisions set forth by the United States Endangered Species Act in 1986 (while their counterparts in the Great Lakes region were listed as endangered).

Since then, the Atlantic Coast population of piping plovers has experienced a fairly steady increase in population abundance. In 2010 there were a total of 1,782 breeding pairs, with a breeding range stretching from Newfoundland, Canada, down to North Carolina. To put that in perspective, there were only 790 breeding pairs when they were listed in 1986. To maintain a stable population there would need to be at least 2,000 breeding pairs for five consecutive years. Without protected land free from development the plover cannot maintain a viable population, hence the importance of Assateague Island to their overall recovery. "Most beaches along the Atlantic Coast have been developed into resort communities where over-wash zones and natural beaches no longer exist," says Ashlie Kozlowski, outreach coordinator for the nonprofit Assateague Island Alliance. "Assateague Island is the only place piping plovers nest in Maryland."

To maintain a stable population, however, the plovers need more than just undeveloped beach; they need higher rates of chick survival. Predation on their eggs is a major factor limiting population growth.

This is where the "plover crew" steps in.
(continue here: <http://tinyurl.com/pipl-recovery>)



Piping Plover
Photo by Mark Hendricks

Winter Finch Forecast 2015 - 2016

by Ron Pittaway

GENERAL FORECAST: This winter, spruce seed specialists such as White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins should be concentrated in eastern and western North America where cone crops are heaviest. Northwestern Quebec and Ontario have the least spruce cone abundance with only poor to good crops. Conifer crops including ornamentals are heavier in southern Ontario and could attract finches. Common Redpolls may move into southern Ontario because birch seed crops are low to average in northern Canada. A small flight of Evening Grosbeaks is expected in the East because of increasing numbers due to expanding spruce budworm outbreaks in Quebec. Pine Grosbeaks also should move south in small numbers because the mountain-ash berry crop is below average in northern Ontario. Expect a scattering of Red Crossbills across the East this winter. See individual forecasts for the details.

INDIVIDUAL FORECASTS: Forecasts apply mainly to Ontario and adjacent provinces and states. Three irruptive non-finch passerines whose movements are often linked to finches are also discussed. Follow finch wanderings this fall and winter on eBird.

PINE GROSBEAK: This largest of the finches should move south in small numbers to Algonquin Park and probably farther south. A small flight is indicated because the native mountain-ash berry crop is below average across the boreal forest in Ontario and the crop may become depleted forcing grosbeaks southward. If Pine Grosbeaks come south they will find plenty of European mountain-ash berries and ornamental crabapples in southern Ontario and elsewhere. They relish sunflower seeds at feeders.

PURPLE FINCH: Many (not all) should migrate south out of Ontario this fall because cone and deciduous tree seed crops are generally low in northern Ontario. Purple Finches winter in numbers in the north only when the majority of tree seed crops are bumper. An easy way to tell Purple Finches from House Finches is by checking the tip of the tail; it is distinctly notched or slightly forked in Purple and squared off in House Finch. Purples prefer sunflower seeds at feeders.

RED CROSSBILL: Expect a scattering of Red Crossbills in the East this winter. Red Crossbills comprise at least 10 "call types" in North America. Some may be full species, but most types are normally impossible to identify without analyzing recordings of their flight calls. Matt Young (may6@cornell.edu) at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is studying Red Crossbills and he will identify types if you send him your recordings. The following summary is from Matt who reports "a nice sprinkling of Types 1 and 2 Red Crossbills in central New York State. Type 2s appear to be more common this year across much of the East. Type 10s are occurring from the Great Lakes across the Adirondacks and northern New England into the southern Maritime

Provinces. An early September report of Type 3 in the Great Lakes area makes it the first in more than two years after the massive Type 3 irruption in 2012-13." Red Crossbills, probably Type 2, were seen this summer in the "pine belt" of northeastern Algonquin Park. Look for Type 2s in White Pines in Algonquin along the Barron Canyon Road (no park services) accessible from Highway 17 west of Pembroke.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: This crossbill moves back and forth like a pendulum across the boreal forest looking for bumper spruce cone crops and irrupts south only in years of widespread cone crop failures. They will be scarce in most of Ontario because cone crops are low. They should occur this winter in Atlantic Canada including Newfoundland, which has a heavy spruce cone crop. It is hoped that White-winged Crossbills will move into the northern New England States and the Adirondack Mountains in New York State where spruce cone crops are very good.

COMMON REDPOLL: Similar to last winter, expect a southward movement because birch seed crops are low to average across the boreal forest. Birch crops are much better in southern Ontario south of Algonquin Park so watch for redpolls in birches, in European Black Alders, and in weedy fields. At feeders redpolls prefer nyger seeds served in silo feeders. Redpolls are difficult to study in the field because they are so flighty, but much easier to study at feeders. Watch for the rare "Greater" Common Redpoll (rostrata) from Baffin Island and Greenland. Greaterers are larger, browner, longer tailed and bigger billed. For ID and photos see links #2 and #3 below.

HOARY REDPOLL: Hoaries occur mixed in with flocks of Common Redpolls. The "Southern" Hoary Redpoll (nominata subspecies exilipes) breeds south to northern Ontario and is the usual subspecies seen. "Hornemann's" Hoary Redpoll (subspecies hornemanni) was formerly considered a great rarity south of the tundra. There is an old specimen from southern Ontario in the Royal Ontario Museum, and more recently it has been documented by photos with 10 accepted records by the Ontario Bird Records Committee. For ID and photos of Hornemann's see links #2 and #3 below.

PINE SISKIN: Expect very few siskins in Ontario this winter because White Spruce crops are generally low. Siskins likely will be concentrated in western Canada which has heavy spruce cone crops. There were high numbers of siskins in southern Yukon in early September. They also should occur in New York's Adirondack Mountains, the northern New England States, and the Atlantic Provinces which have very good spruce cone crops. Their wheezy calls are the best way to identify siskins flying overhead. At feeders they prefer nyger seeds in silo feeders.

EVENING GROSBEAK: Breeding numbers have been building in Quebec linked to a greater food supply from

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increasing outbreaks of spruce budworms, so a small southward flight is likely. Tyler Hoar recently saw small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks roaming in widely separated areas of northern Ontario and western Quebec. Tyler reported that "central Ontario feeders may hold these birds from coming south in sizable numbers." However, this spectacular grosbeak should be watched for in eastern Ontario, the Adirondacks and northern New England. The feeders at the Visitor Centre in Algonquin Park usually have grosbeaks in winter. Evening Grosbeaks prefer black oil sunflower seeds.

For the full text, see this link: <http://jeaniron.ca/2015/forecast15.htm>

SMAS to Benefit from a New Course offered by St. Mary's College of Maryland

The Southern Maryland Audubon Society mail box received an exciting opportunity in a letter to us last June. The college informed us of a new capstone course which will enhance students' data-analysis, problem solving, project management, and client service skills. They offered to provide data-analysis consultant services at no cost. The idea is that learning through service activities it can yield large benefits for both students and the community. In this case, it is our society!

A team of upper-division students, directed by Emek Rose, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, and Amy Henderson, Assistant Professor of Economics have already been given access to 30 years of Port Tobacco bird count data from our National Audubon Christmas Bird Count division. The expectation is that the consulting team will design and implement a professional analysis, culminating in a whitepaper which will be presented to SMAS in May 2016.

SMAS board member, Lynne Wheeler, is the point person interfacing with the team. She has provided the college with a proposal for the free data-analysis service, facilitated in garnering the data, and answering questions as they appear.

Lynne states "I included many questions in our proposal, 'To what extent have numbers of each species changed, or total number of birds counted?', 'What factors account for statistically significant changes', 'Is there a correlation to Port Tobacco River water quality data?' I was amazed at the timing of this letter as I had just been contacted by the Port Tobacco River Conservancy a week before inquiring about bird count data along the river. My response being, we have tons of data but who can analyze it? Then SMAS receives this opportunity. Funny how things happen! This is a big data base to process and evaluate. I am excited for SMAS and the learning experience for the students."

The whitepaper will be presented at the Monthly Meeting Program in May. This is another effort of SMAS focusing in partnerships with other conservation groups and spreading our wings out to the community of southern Maryland.

Southern Maryland Audubon Society **ADOPT-A-RAPTOR**

Foster Parents Needed!!



The Southern Maryland Audubon Society supports raptor conservation and research projects in the Southern Maryland area through the "Adopt-A-Raptor" Program. The program currently includes four species: **Osprey, Barn Owl, American Kestrel and Northern Saw-whet Owl.** Each bird is banded by a licensed bird bander with a serially numbered metal band, in cooperation with the U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory. A limited number of birds are available for adoption each year!

"Adopt-A-Nest" now available for Osprey, Barn Owl & Kestrels!

Adoptive "parents" will receive:

A certificate of adoption with the bird's band number, and location and date of banding.

Information on the ecology and migration patterns of the species

Any other pertinent information that may become available

Your support helps provide:

- Barn Owl Nest Boxes
- Osprey Nesting Platforms
- Kestrel Nest Boxes
- Mist Nets or Banding Supplies

Complete the form below to "Adopt-A-Raptor" with the Southern Maryland Audubon Society

Mail completed form to: *Melissa Boyle, Adopt-a-Raptor, 10455 Point Lookout Rd. Scotland, MD 20687*

Name: _____
as it should appear on Adoption Certificate

Address: _____

I wish to adopt:

_____ (# of) Osprey, \$10 each / \$25 per nest

_____ (# of) Barn Owl, \$25 each / \$50 per nest

_____ (# of) Northern Saw-whet Owl, \$30 each

_____ (# of) American Kestrel, \$35 each / \$75 per nest

Amount Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to: Southern Maryland Audubon Society

**eBird And Macaulay Library: Next Generation
Tools For Rich Media
3 November 2015**

It's no surprise that birders are a visual and aural community—after all, we spend most of our time searching for birds by sight and sound. Millions of birders around the world now carry cameras into the field, and many people also record bird sounds using smartphones. Until now, this rich resource of bird photos and sounds has been scattered across disparate resources, or in the worst cases has not been captured at all. Using the data collection power of eBird, and the long-term curation and archival capabilities of the Macaulay Library, we've created a home at the Cornell Lab for this next generation of bird information. Leveraging the strengths of both projects, we've developed a scientific foundation and a streamlined process for collecting rich media that provides a long-term, open data resource searchable by birders and scientists alike—a real-time, digital natural history collection. And did we forget to mention, it's incredibly fun? Through a simple drag-and-drop process, it is now easy to illustrate your eBird checklists with photos and audio files, not only providing documentation for your bird records, but also creating a visual and audio tapestry of what you're encountering in the field, and easily share it with others.

Read more at: http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/rich_media_launch/

Upcoming Events

January 6 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary's County

“EDUCATORS PRESENT – OUR HOG ISLAND, MAINE EXPERIENCE”

LORI COLE, MAYA HUCHLA, and GAYLE BYLAN

Every year SMAS gives a scholarship to teachers and environmental educators from our community to attend National Audubon's Camp in Hog Island, Maine. The camp offers many programs to select from; the two our teachers usually sign up for are *Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week* or *Field Ornithology*. Come and hear our 2015 scholarship winners share about their experience last summer. This is a great time for any teachers who are considering applying for our 2016 scholarships to get in depth knowledge about this wonderful opportunity and SMAS contribution.

January 10 – 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. 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 [301-757-0005](tel:301-757-0005), or kyle.rambo@navy.mil

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Please enroll me as a member of the **Southern Maryland Audubon Society**. All of my membership dollars will help support local conservation initiatives and enable us to provide southern Maryland teacher education scholarships to attend Hog Island, Audubon Camp in Maine.
 - Individual/Family: ___1year \$20 ___2year \$35 ___3year \$45
 - Lifetime Membership: ___\$500
 - Donation: _____
- Please enroll me as a first time member of the **National Audubon Society**. You will automatically become a member of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society. You will receive six issues of National's award winning *Audubon Magazine*. A fraction of my dues will be received to our chapter. Your renewal information will come directly from the National Audubon Society.
 - Introductory Offer: ___1 year \$20
 - Name: _____
 - Address: _____
 - City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- Please enroll me for electronic delivery of our monthly newsletter *The Osprey*: ___ Email me a link to download the pdf, ___ Email me a notice it is available on the website. My email address is: _____ . ___ No thank you, please mail me a paper copy.

Please make your check payable to Southern Maryland Audubon Society or National Audubon Society.

Mail to: *Southern Maryland Audubon Society, P.O. Box 181, Bryans Road, MD 20616.*

GREAT NEWS!! You can now go online and join SMAS via **PayPal**. Go to our website at somdaudubon.org for this new option.

Upcoming Events (cont.)

January 22 – FRIDAY – 7:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP – YOUTHS WELCOME!!

Elms Environmental Center, St. Mary's County
"OWL PROWL AT THE ELMS"

Leaders: Bob Boxwell and Margarita Rochow
Come "call out" the owls!! Owls are nocturnal, and therefore not easy to spot. A great Friday night family outing at The Elms. 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](tel:410-610-5124), or Bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

January 24 – 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 of 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](tel:240-765-5192).

January 30 – 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 location. RSVP to Tyler Bell at jtylerbell@yahoo.com or 310-862-4623.

EDITOR: Tyler Bell E-mail: jtylerbell@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.

2015-2016 Officers

President, Michael Patterson (301-752-5763)
Vice-President, Bob Lukinic (301-283-6317)
Secretary, Lynne Wheeler (301-743-3236)
Treasurer, Will Daniel (240-518-8006)

February 3 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary's County

"THE OSA PENINSULA OF COSTA RICA – THE MOST BIOLOGICALLY INTENSE PLACE ON EARTH"

LYNNE WHEELER, *Southern Maryland Audubon Society Secretary and Membership Chair*

Come and enjoy a presentation by Lynne of her October 2015 trip to the Osa Peninsula. This southwestern corner of Costa Rica is known as "where the rainforest meets the sea." The Osa's geological history makes it home to a nearly unparalleled amount of biodiversity, estimated to house 2.5% of the biodiversity of the entire world. See photos of many bird species such as Scarlet Macaws, Trogons, Hummingbirds, Motmots, Woodcreepers, and Cotingas, along with tropical plants, multiple monkey species, reptiles and the Green-and-Black Poison dart frog. She might share a few photos of the fish she and her husband John caught too!

February 19 – FRIDAY – 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. 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 2 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Charlotte Hall, St. Mary's County

"Audubon MD/DC: IBA Champions – How to Participate in Protecting Important Bird Areas"

DAVE CURSON, PhD, *Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon MD/DC*

Audubon Maryland-DC launched the new IBA Champions initiative in 2015. Come and hear how you can get involved in protecting birds at Important Bird Areas through monitoring, stewardship and advocacy.

March 12 – SATURDAY – 8:00 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. Call or email Dean to register: dean.newman@dau.mil or 301-672-5464.