

The Osprey

Newsletter of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society

Past President's Perch

by Mike Callahan



Barn Owl
Photo by: Bill Hubick

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<http://somdaudubon.org/>

The names Carol Gheblian and Southern Maryland Audubon Society have been synonymous for decades. Countless new SMAS members and visitors have been greeted and welcomed to our monthly meetings, field trips and activities by Carol. You might consider her the face or soul of SMAS over the past several years. Who could forget being welcomed with open arms and such a nice smile to our organization? This is the same way she was welcomed by members Cora Fulton and Olive Sorzano when she joined in the late 1970s.

The season has arrived for Carol to retire from SMAS, for she moved from her beloved Charles County and Southern Maryland community, and migrated north to Prince George's County. SMAS will miss her presence at our activities and of her countless contributions of time and dedication to our organization.

After joining, she did not become an active member until 1979 when she retired as director of the library at the Indian Head Naval Base. With birding mentors Cora and Olive, "The Girls" as she fondly calls them, the three would often go birding together. They taught her how to be a birder. They also gave her a sense of being a part of the group and bigger birding community. In 1980s Cora asked Carol if she would serve. She said yes, and Carol was an active SMAS Board of Directors until this winter. Thanks to Cora she ended up serving as our President in through decade.

Other SMAS mentors include Paul Nistico and George Wilmot. It was George who helped her see the importance of protecting bird habitat and citizen involvement. This ultimately led to her participation in other conservation minded organizations.

Carol, a native of Staunton, VA, worked at Library of Congress and headed the library at the Indian Head base. About 1962, an Air Force liaison gave her a bird feeder. A Carolina Chickadee was first to come visit her new feeder and she was not familiar with it. So she got a book and looked it up. That was the beginning of her bird identification.

George Wilmot taught her how important citizen involvement was as well as the need to protect bird habitat. That was the beginning of her involvement with Citizens for a Better Charles County, and efforts to help protect the Potomac River, and the Chapman Property, and with so many other environmental issues in Charles County and Southern Maryland.

"Getting to know SMAS members and birders was an important part of my life!" Carol exclaims. She says it is nice to keep up with friends and considers all of these birding associations, lifelong friends. She does not considered herself a hard core birder or chaser, but is interested in learning bird behaviors, habitats and sharing with and learning from the fellows.

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Her husband Oscar was very supportive of her new hobby and endeavors, and made sure she had what she needed to be a good birder. They both hosted the tally rally for the Maryland portion of the Fort Belvoir Christmas Bird Count at their home for years. She served as the Maryland Coordinator for this count.

Good luck in your new home Carol! We look forward to you visiting us at SMAS activities once in a while. Carol would also love to have you visit her in her new home. Get in touch with her and maybe you can bird the new neighborhood together.

ghebelian@comcast.net

Barn Owls Making Their Appearance

Jamie Drake

Southern Maryland Newspapers - Mar 11, 2016

The warmer than average weather this week has been quite welcome at our house. We've spent every available minute outside since the mercury in the thermometer went above 65 degrees.

Astronomically speaking, spring doesn't officially start until March 20, but don't tell that to the beautiful butterfly already flitting through our yard. Daffodils are blooming. Those of us with allergies are feeling an itchiness in our eyes.

It's hard to believe, but a month ago my oldest daughter and I went on a Southern Maryland Audubon Society field trip on a frigid 37-degree night to look for some elusive Barn Owls. Indigenous to every continent except Antarctica, Barn Owls are on the decline in many areas due to habitat destruction, lack of nesting sites and use of rodenticides.

Barn Owls, not to be confused with their nearly homophonic cousin the Barred Owl, are particularly striking, endowed by nature with an expressive heart-shaped face that has earned them the local nicknames ghost owl and monkey-faced owl. They have tan feathers on their backs and white on their undersides, which makes them appear especially ghost-like when flying at night.

As darkness fell, we drove to a private farm near my childhood home in Charles County to meet up with fellow bird-lovers from the tri-county area and a few particularly devoted birders from Alexandria, Va., and Frederick who made the drive just for this event.

Mike Callahan, a raptor specialist from Charles County who works as an educator at the Nanjemoy Environmental Center by day, was our leader for the evening. It was easy to pick him out of the crowd: tall, jovial, and bedecked with a knitted owl cap and vanity plates that expressed his devotion to Barn Owls. His quick wit, honed from years of working with fifth graders, kept everyone in good spirits despite the cold.

According to our guide, Barn Owls just don't give a hoot. Really. They don't actually hoot like many owls do. Instead, their call is a raspy drawn-out screech that sounds kind of like a woman screaming and sucking in her breath at the same time.

I was quite impressed with Mike's calling ability, and I really hope he had some throat lozenges in his car for the drive home. The next day, my daughter and I both tried to imitate the Barn Owl's call for the rest of our family. I can report with certainty that it's not easy to make that sound, and no one at our house was impressed, just horrified and possibly embarrassed for us or by us, or both.

Barn Owls have specific habitat requirements. They like to live near wide, open fields such as grasslands or hayfields, and they avoid fields covered with row crops. Many live near brackish or saltwater marshes.

Meadow voles, also known as field mice, cause considerable agricultural damage and are the Barn Owls' primary source of food. A pair of nesting Barn Owls can kill as many as 3,000 mice a year. Although not all owls are exclusively nocturnal, Barn Owls hunt at night.

We made several stops along the edges of fallow fields. After Mike called a few times, we would listen attentively for any replying Barn Owls. We didn't hear any, but Canada geese honked in chorus nearly every time, much to everyone's amusement.

The night certainly wasn't boring. The moon was almost full and was our only source of light except for the occasional flashlight beam. I could imagine we were the only people in the world, although I knew civilization was just a few miles away. In between stops on the owl prowl, we were surprised by some white-tailed deer and at one point, much to everyone's delight, we heard a woodcock peent in the distance, trying his best to attract a mate.

At the very end of the night, Mike took us to an area where wooden boxes were installed on poles for the Barn Owls to use as nesting sites. As part of the conservation program in Southern Maryland, the nesting boxes are checked in the spring for activity and, if the boxes are in use, the owlets are banded later before they fledge. This program is particularly important for Barn Owls, as places suitable for nesting sites such as old hollow trees and abandoned buildings are not as commonplace as they once were.

Mike did a few calls near one of the boxes, and surprisingly, we heard the hoot of a Great Horned Owl in the woods across a field. Our leader stopped calling at that point, because Great Horned Owls can prey on smaller Barn Owls.

As we stood near one of the nesting boxes, Mike shined his flashlight beam on the entrance to look for inhabitants,

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but we saw nothing. He told us that scratch markings near the entrance hole indicate if a box is being used. Barn Owls usually nest beginning in April, but with warmer-than-average temperatures during much of winter, it was possible that nesting had already begun.

So the group shimmied closer to the nesting box to get a good look at the wood under the entrance hole. Just as he shined his light on the hole again, a magnificent— and lightning fast— Barn Owl shot out of the entrance and banked hard left flying off with nary a sound. It was over in seconds, but the experience will stick with me for a lifetime.

I saw a Barn Owl once before, about 20 years ago as I was driving home late from work one night near Wheatley Road in Dentsville. It swooped right over the windshield of my car and for a split-second, I almost fainted thinking an angel had come to take me home. It was an experience both spooky and exhilarating, and this recent sighting was just as thrilling.

Next weekend we'll be out for a second owl prowling, trying to find them in St. Mary's County. We won't need as many layers of clothes and our teeth won't chatter. And I'll have two daughters along this time, because prowling for owls has become a family affair.

jamedrakeoutdoors@outlook.com

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Thomas Anderson, Lusby
Mr. Don Bazzle, White Plains
Laura Blachek, Charlotte Hall
Mrs. Marjorie Braender, Dunkirk
Dolores Burgess, La Plata
Shainna Callaway, Hollywood
Nancy Cheville, Solomons
Shirley Collova, Owings
Jamie Cooley, California
Suzanne Edgar, Leonardtown
Deborah Emerson, North Beach
Sue Garner, Dowell
Tim Gipe, Fort Washington
Joan Hawk, Broomes Island
Gwyneth & Collin Hein, Lexington Park
Sheryl L Hutchison, California
Johnson, Clinton
Mr. James Kinnett, California
Ms. Daisy Krelic, California
Tracy Lane, Lexington Park
David Layman, California
Joseph A Neal, Clinton
Ronald G Niemann, Dunkirk
Jerome E. Peuler, Jr., La Plata
Karen Ritter, Dunkirk
Joan C Schreck, Accokeek
Candace Shannon, Huntingtown
Anne Sledge, Lusby
Connie Thompson, Welcome
Ms. Nancy Ulanowicz, Owings
Margaret T Ullman, La Plata

Patuxent NAS Bird Walk

12 March 2016

by Dean Newman

Thirteen participants made the Early Waterfowl bird trip this year at Naval Air Station Patuxent River in spite of the cooling, cloudy weather. The skies threatened rain but the weatherman said we were good so the trip went ahead as planned. As long as we stayed on the lee side of the base, temperatures were bearable, but once on the windy side, the weather wasn't as comfortable as it had been the previous week.

As stated, this trip was billed as a waterfowl trip and, typically, there are lots of migrating ducks, scoters, grebes and loons on the bay and sheltered estuaries to view and identify. This year has been anything but typical for waterfowl, and the group had to look hard to find excitement and we did.

One of our participants, Zach Stickney, age 9, deserves special mention for his sharp birding skills and for his contagious exuberance and enthusiasm. I saw a group of passerines fly into a tree at the first stop and, by their activity, identified them casually as Cedar Waxwings without even bothering to glass them with my super-expensive Swarovski ELs. Zach soon corrected this misidentification, identifying them as a flock (yes a flock) of Northern Flickers.

My credibility was thus a bit shaky as I glassed a group of far-distant waterfowl and announced a scoter in the group. Zach commandeered my spotting scope for a better look and, once again, suggested an alternative diagnosis of Greater Scaup. He was correct.

So hats off to Zach, who at a relatively young age is demonstrating birding acuity beyond the level of a mere trip leader!

I'm not sure we set any records for numbers of species but we did manage to find a colony of Brown-headed Nuthatches and a wild Mallard/Peking hybrid individual that entertained us immensely. The group passed on a challenging round of gull identification or sorting through the countless Canada Goose flocks for the chance of a Cackling, so we called it quits around noon.

For next year, the base has started playing hardball regarding its access policies. Previous to this year, I've been able to drive through the gate with several vehicles in tow without issue from the guards. From now on we'll need to submit a list of attendees 72 hours in advance of the trip.

Mom's Big Year - 2016

by Nancy McAllister

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."
Howard Thurman

I'm a mom and I'm a birder. Passionate about both. And undeniably passionate about life. My love of birds started at an early age and has engulfed me for decades. Lots has happened in my life over that time. Through the ups and downs, family and friends have always been there, and thankfully.... so have the birds. This year, I'm planning to use my passion for birds as a tool to reinvent myself as a mom, as well as a means of healing. I'm inviting you to fasten your seatbelt and come along with me for the ride. In 2016, I'll be doing a Big Year, A Mom's Big Year...that is, an adapted version of the traditional birder's Big Year. I'll be going as many places and seeing as many birds as possible throughout 2016...all within the context of being the best mom I know how to be. I'll be blogging along the way and will share my internal reflections as well as the tangible side of the adventure, including the places, the people, and of course, the BIRDS...Hopefully LOTS of them! It's my hope that this trek will reveal ways that we all can use our true passion as a compass to reorient ourselves. I believe that this process has the potential to empower us to overcome our challenges in life.

Please follow my journey at www.momsbigyear.com

Federal Duck Stamp Contest

by Paul Baicich

The USFWS has made a creative proposal to tweak the rule for the Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

This proposal appeared in the Federal Register on Thursday, 11 February. It states that the portrayal of the waterfowl on the Duck Stamp (officially known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp) should be enhanced by the addition of an appropriate non-waterfowl migratory bird species, beginning with the 2016 contest (to be held this fall). This would be in addition to the dominant waterfowl species on the Stamp.

This idea is supported by the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp, among others. It's a perfect fit for the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty; it should challenge and motivate creative bird artists; and the presence of such a secondary species should help clarify that Stamp dollars go to secure NWR habitats that benefit bird species beyond waterfowl.

You can read a good explanation and find out how to comment on the proposal here:

<http://www.friendsofthestamp.org/news-items/innovative-proposal-to-change-duck-stamp-art-rules-supported-by-friends/>

Stop Birds Hitting Windows

Effective Window Solutions for Homeowners and Architects



Birds hitting windows is one of the leading causes of bird deaths in the United States. It is estimated that up to [988 million birds are killed](#) each year in the United States when they hit windows, making this threat one of the most costly to bird populations.

Migratory birds and backyard birds are among the most common victims, including declining species like White-throated Sparrow, [Wood Thrush](#), Painted Bunting, [Golden-winged Warbler](#), and Anna's and [Ruby-throated Hummingbird](#).

Now, after six years of research and testing more than 150 products, our [Glass Collisions Program](#) presents a comprehensive resource to help stop birds hitting windows: Proven products for existing and new windows for homeowners, architects, and builders, for every size and shape imaginable, and for every budget. Each of these products has been shown to significantly reduce bird collisions. (See "About Our Ratings," below.)

We at American Bird Conservancy are proud to be the first organization to promote glass collision awareness on a nationwide scale. But we need your help to make a difference for birds: Please take action today to help solve the problem of birds hitting windows, using one of the options [listed at the web site] below.

<https://abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-smart-glass/>



Wood Thrush window fatality
photo by Lynne Wheeler

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

Rule #1: Spread the Birding Gospel to the Masses

by Nicholas Lund

February 24, 2016

Birds and Habitats Are Under Attack

Welcome, friends, to a new weekly feature here on Audubon.org: The Birdist's Rules for Birding. I'm honored to have been asked to appear regularly on your computer screens. Hello! If you don't yet know me from my previous writing here (go check it out! I talk about Star Wars!), my name is Nick Lund. By day, I am a mild-mannered policy wonk at an environmental nonprofit in D.C., but at night I write things about the world of birds and birding as The Birdist. My nocturnal manners, you ask? Slightly less mild!

So what's this all about? Primarily, this column is going to be a guide for nascent birders, the "bird curious" among us, if you will, looking to get deeper into the hobby. I remember those early days. For me, a switch flipped unexpectedly just over a decade ago when I picked up a used Peterson in a bookstore outside of Fort Wayne, Indiana. I walked into that store just a dumb ol' college student and walked out a birder. An infant birder, to be fair, with no mentors, no binoculars, no birding friends, and no idea where to go or what to do, but a birder all the same.

Those first months and years were tough. I was learning as much as I could, but it was all trial and error. The birds were the easy part—it was learning how to actually go birding that was tough. How do I find someone to go with? What do I do if I think I've found something rare? What should I wear?! I think it was two years before I went out in the field with another birder, and even then I was terrified about saying something incorrect.

But it doesn't need to be that way (heck, it probably didn't have to be that way for me, I was just shy and this was still pre-Internet-content-explosion). With some simple tips and rules of thumb, new birders can gain the confidence they need to dive right in. This column will be about etiquette. It'll be about gear. It'll be about what kinds of places have the best birds, how to find them when you get there, and then how to tell your friends all about it.

But most of all it'll be about love. Love for birds in all their forms, and love for the weird pastime of searching for as many of them as possible in all the nooks and crannies of this Earth. Which brings us to . . .

Rule #1: Spread the Gospel

To read the rest of this article, please follow this link:
<https://www.audubon.org/news/rule-1-spread-birding-gospel-masses>

Upcoming Events

April 17 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Indian Head area, Charles County

“INDIAN HEAD RAIL TRAIL AND SMALLWOOD STATE PARK”

Leader: Lynne Wheeler

The Indian Head Rail Trail is one of the best locations for Red-headed Woodpeckers in the state. We will also bird Smallwood State Park, Marbury, MD for early migrants. Come and see the Red-heads and help us find migrants who are heading north!! Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the entrance to Smallwood State Park, Marbury, MD. This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society. RSVP to Lynne at 301-751-8097 or comstockel@aol.com

April 24 – SUNDAY - 8 am – 11 am

FIELD TRIP

Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, St. Mary's County

“EAGLES, EARTH DAY AND SOTTERLEY”

Leaders: David Moulton and Michael Patterson Wrap up your Earth Day week exploring the bird life on this scenic and historic Patuxent River property. Nesting Bald Eagles, early migrants, meadowlarks, woodpeckers and waterfowl can be found via Sotterley's extensive new trail system. From Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through gates to the gravel parking lot on the Sotterley historic property. RSVP at moulton.davidh@gmail.com or 240-278-4473.

April 30 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

FIELD TRIP

Elms Environmental Education Center, St. Mary's County

49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628

“BIRDING 101”

Leader(s): Dean Newman and Margarita Rochow

Calling on all wannabe birders!! Youths Welcome!! Are you tired of wondering and 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. Dean 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. Call or email Dean to register:

dean.newman@md.metrocast.net

dean.newman@dau.mil or 301-672-5464.

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

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

To Be Determined. See the website for location information.

“ST. MARY'S COLLEGE – DATA ANALYSIS OF THE PORT TOBACCO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS “

May 14 – SATURDAY – All Day

COUNTY MAY COUNTS

Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's Counties Help is always appreciated from all: backyard birders, beginners, new members. This is a great way to learn! Data and information help save our birds. The county coordinators for you to contact are as follows:

CALVERT: Sherman Suter (sjsuter29@verizon.net)

CHARLES: Michael Patterson

(301-752-5763, bigbuteo1@yahoo.com)

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY: Fred Fallon

(410-286-8152, fwfallon@gmail.com)

ST. MARY'S COUNTY: Tyler Bell

(301-862-4623, tylerbell@yahoo.com)

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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

May 15 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert County

10540 H.G. Trueman Road, Lusby, MD 20657

“WARBLERS AND SPRING MIGRATION”

Leader: Judy Ferris and Jan Degeneffe

Neotropical migrants should be near their peak. Expect warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and other songbirds. Good trails through wooded habitat and along a creek and swamp. 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 (\$5), 3-4 mile round trip walk. RSVP to Judy at [410-326-1965](tel:410-326-1965) or jferris11@gmail.com

May 22 – SUNDAY – Dawn to Dusk or parts thereof

BIRD COUNT

Newtowne Neck State Park, St. Mary's County

MD 243, Compton, MD 20627

“NEWTOWNE NECK BIRDING BLITZ”

Organizer: David Moulton

Come for an hour or the day. This will be a concentrated effort to build up the species list at this magnificent but under-birded state park, a former military training site along the Potomac River. Participants will be assigned sectors to ensure broad coverage. Habitat ranges from marshland to fields to deep woods and river beaches. Take Rte. 5 north through Leonardtown. Turn south (left) onto Rte. 243 (Newtowne Neck Road) for 4.5 miles to parking lot just beyond St. Francis Xavier Church. RSVP to David Moulton at 240-278-4473 or moulton.davidh@gmail.com.

Mid-May – Early June

Barn Owls & Breakfast

Southern Charles County

Youths especially welcome!

The exact date to be determined, it all depends on the owls! Watch our Osprey newsletter and website for exact date and details.

Leader: Mike Callahan

A different kind of B&B! Come and enjoy breakfast before helping our Raptor Conservation Committee chair Mike check a Barn Owl nest box, and hopefully band nestling owls. This trip takes place on private property in southern Charles County. The location and directions will be given when you contact Mike to register and reserve your spot. This event fills up rapidly. There is a small fee involved to cover the cost of food. Please bring your own reusable plate, mug, and utensils. RSVP to Mike at 240-765-5192 or raptorsrulemc@gmail.com

June 5 – SUNDAY – 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

ANNUAL MEETING

Kings Landing Park, Calvert County

3255 Kings Landing Road, Huntingtown, MD 20639

Potluck Lunch..... 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Welcome 2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Award Presentations 2:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Bird Walk 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Come and join us appreciate this parks 265 acres of natural area on the Patuxent River including 4,000 feet

of river shoreline and 50 acres of marshland. Our picnic meeting will be held at a picnic pavilion, enabling us to immerse ourselves easily into the parks wonderful nature filled environment. Directions: From Rt. 4 at Huntingtown turn onto Old Town Road (Rt. 524). Proceed to Bowen's Grocery Store and turn on Huntingtown Road (Rt. 521). At the 4-way stop intersection, continue straight, and you will be on Kings Landing Road. The road dead ends at the park.

June 12 – SUNDAY – 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Flag Ponds, Calvert County

1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, Lusby, MD 20657

“NIGHTTIME HORSESHOE CRAB ADVENTURE AT FLAG PONDS”

Leader(s): Andy Brown and Melissa Boyle Acuti

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 Melissa at 443-340-3035 or melissaboyle3@gmail.com by June 6.

June 17 – FRIDAY – 1:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Patuxent River Park – Jug Bay, Prince George's County

16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

“OSPREY BANDING TRIP”

Leader(s): Melissa Boyle Acuti 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: \$18/person, payable the day of, in cash. Pre-register with Melissa at 443-340-3035 or melissaboyle3@gmail.com (email preferred).

photo by Melissa Boyle



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)