

November 30 - FRIDAY – 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP – YOUTHS WELCOME!

Myrtle Point Park, St. Mary's County
"WINTER OWL PROWL ON MYRTLE POINT"

Leader: Bob Boxwell

This trip is co-sponsored with the Friends of Myrtle Point Park and is an annual event that 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 bobboxwell@hotmail.com or 410-610-5124.

December 5 - WEDNESDAY - 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's County
47645 College Dr., St Mary's City, MD 20686

Anne Arundel Hall North Building, Blackstone Room
"FEMALE SONGBIRDS AREN'T SO DULL AFTER ALL"

J.JORDAN PRICE, Steven Muller

Distinguished Professor of the Sciences, Biology Chair

Scientists have long focused on why male songbirds have such colorful plumage and sing such elaborate songs, while females are relatively dull and quiet. Indeed, these sexual differences were fundamental to the formulation of Darwin's theory of sexual selection. In this talk Dr. Price will describe recent studies that are causing us to rethink some of Darwin's original ideas regarding the evolution of differences between the sexes. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text). Photo of female Cape May Warbler provided by George Jett.



119th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Please Sign Up Now!! Birds Count!!

Please join us and help count birds for the Christmas Bird Count. Participate in one of the largest and oldest citizen science programs. Beginner birders welcome. See website or Osprey newsletter for more details. Please contact your county coordinator and come out and count!

December 16 – Port Tobacco, MD
Compiler: Mike Callahan, 240-765-5192
or raptorsrulemc@gmail.com

December 16 – Point Lookout, MD
Compiler: Bob Boxwell, 410-610-5124
or bobboxwell@hotmail.com

December 30 – Fort Belvoir, VA and MD
Compiler: Kurt Gaskill, 703-768-2172
or kurtcapt87@verizon.net
MD Sector Leader: Lynne Wheeler, 301-751-8097
or somdaudubon@yahoo.com

December 30 – Patuxent River, MD
Compiler: Andy Brown, 410-535-5327
or Andrew.Brown@calvertcountymd.gov

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 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.

2017-2018 OFFICERS

President, Lynne Wheeler Vice-President, Margarita Rochow
301-743-3236, 301-751-8097 240-577-1748
Secretary, Julie Daniel Treasurer, Will Daniel
240-346-1931 571-237-1122
Past President, Michael Patterson
301-752-5763

DIRECTORS

Tim Wells Tiffany Farrell
301-643-0928 301-609-1345
Julie Simpson Greg Klesch
301-743-9243 301-884-5188
Lee Vines Tom Seaton
301-752-4976 202-373-4923

COMMITTEES

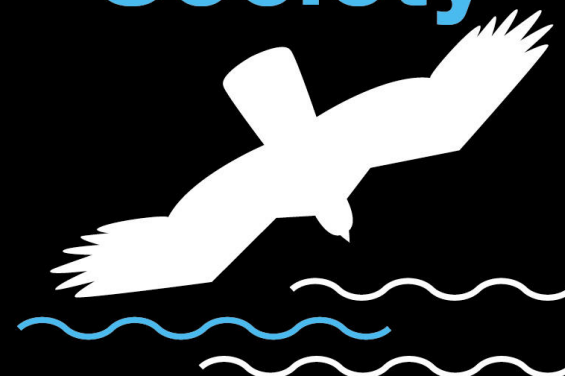
Archives Lynne Wheeler
Bird-Friendly Communities SMAS Board
Conservation Chair: Bob Lukinic
Calvert County – Bob Boxwell
Charles County – Bob Lukinic
Prince George's County – Millie Kriemelmeyer
St. Mary's County – Greg Klesch
Education Chair: Tracey Stuller
Charles County – Jean Artes
St. Mary's County – Open
Calvert County – Sue Hamilton
Prince George's County – Millie Kriemelmeyer
Field Trips David Moulton
Finance Nancy Megas
Fundraising Open
Hospitality Robbi Ross
Membership Lynne Wheeler
Newsletter Editor Tyler Bell
Programs Tiffany Farrell
Publicity Nancy Megas
Raptor Conservation Mike Callahan
Adopt-a-Raptor Carole Schnitzler
Social Media Nancy Megas
SMAS Special Advisor Carol Gheblian
Youth Outreach Chair: Lee Vines

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



2018 SEPT-DEC
FIELD TRIPS
AND
PROGRAMS

facebook

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

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Asbury Solomons Island Community Center Auditorium,
Calvert County

11100 Asbury Circle, Solomons, MD 20688

“DOLPHIN WATCH: DOLPHINS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY”

DR. HELEN BAILEY, Research Associate

Professor, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory

Little is known about how often dolphins come into the Chesapeake Bay, how long they spend there, what areas they are using and why. Dr. Bailey and her team have been frequently detecting dolphin calls in the Bay and citizen scientists have reported hundreds of dolphin sightings on Dr. Bailey's Chesapeake Dolphin Watch mobile apps and website. Dr. Bailey will present what she has learned about the Bay's dolphins so far, describe upgrades to the sighting app, and explain how you can participate in this research effort. Auditorium is located in the Community Center. Note signs for event parking. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).



September 8 – SATURDAY – 8:00 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

Wooded habitat and wetland attracts a variety of songbirds. Expect to see resident birds as well as immature and adult Neotropical migrants. Great spot for warblers. Wide trail through forest adjacent to creek and wetland. 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 jferris1@gmail.com or 410-326-1965.

September 9 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary's County

21866 Cedar Point, 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. Open only to US citizens. Must bring a photo ID. We are limited to 10 participants, and PRE-REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY – contact kyle.rambo@navy.mil or 301-757-0005.

September 15 - SATURDAY – 8:00 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 or jtlyerbell@yahoo.com or 301-862-4623.

September 22 – SATURDAY – 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

FIELD TRIP

Port Tobacco Restaurant & Marina, Western Charles County

7536 Shirley Blvd., Port Tobacco, MD 20677

“AUTUMNAL EQUINOX -

FALL BIRD MIGRATION ROAD RALLY”

Leader: Lynne Wheeler

Something new! A hunt – for – fall - migrants road rally! Let's see how many migrants our group can find. We will meet and car pool at the Port Tobacco Marina at 7:45 am. Take off at 8 am: first location Cedar Point Wildlife Management Area, Welcome, MD. This location situated on a peninsula of the Nanjemoy Creek and Potomac River, offers a mix of forested and upland habitats as well as tidal marsh, non-tidal ponds and wetlands, and agricultural fields. After two hours here, we will head further west to Friendship Farm Park, Nanjemoy, MD. This county park offers seven miles of recreational trail that provides access to 382 acres of forest and agricultural fields surrounding Nanjemoy Creek. We will finalize our day with a relaxing water view tally - up lunch at the Port Tobacco Restaurant & Marina. To register contact Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

September 23 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 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 or 240-278-4473.

September 29 – SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP & EXHIBITION

Annamarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, Calvert County

13480 Dowell Road, Dowell, MD 20629

“FLY AWAY! THE MIGRATION OF BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES”

Check out the Nature Nook gallery exhibit from September 22 – November 11 and explore the seasonal migration patterns of birds and butterflies. SMAS members Bev and Warren Walker are leading a bird walk on Saturday, September 29 to promote

such a wonderful idea at one of our most beautiful locations in southern Maryland. For full details check out their website at <https://www.annmariegarden.org/>.

October 3 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park

Education Center, Prince Georges County

3400 Bryan Point Rd, Accokeek, MD 20607

“THE CAPE MAY RAPTOR BANDING PROJECT”

PAUL NAPIER, President,

Cape May Raptor Banding Project

Paul Napier will present “The Cape May Raptor Banding Project,” which will cover a brief history, some impressive Project statistics, an overview of the intern program, how the project contributes to science, and portraits and facts about the raptors banded. There will be lots of great close-up photographs. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text). Directions: see accokeekfoundation.org>visit>location>directions



October 7 – 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 28th to Bob at bobboxwell@hotmail.com or 443-404-5549.

October 13 – 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”

Leader(s): Bob Boxwell and Margarita Rochow

Calling on all wannabe birders!! **Youths Welcome!!** Are you tired of wondering, “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 Rte. 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 bobboxwell@hotmail.com or 410-610-5124.

SAVE THE DATE - October 20 – SATURDAY -
FALL FUNDRAISER

“Earth, Wine & Fire” See website for details

October 21– SUNDAY – 8:00 am – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Newtowne Neck State Park, St. Mary's County

Church address: 21370 Newtowne Neck Road,

Leonardtown, MD 20650

“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. 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 moulton.davidh@gmail.com or 240-278-4473.

November 7 – WEDNESDAY - 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Charles Soil Conservation District, Charles County

4200 Gardiner Road, Waldorf, MD 20601

“MD BIODIVERSITY PROJECT”

JIM BRIGHTON, Co-founder, MD Biodiversity Project

Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization focused on cataloging all the living things of Maryland. Their goal is to promote education and conservation by helping to build a vibrant nature study community. The project was started in June 2012 by Bill Hubick and Jim Brighton. The project has cataloged over 17,700 species, including over 9,900 species with photographs, and features the work of more than 1,000 naturalists and photographers. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).



November 18 - 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: Lynne Wheeler

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 somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).