

Delmarva Birding

November 23, 2018

Birding is big business in Maryland!

On November 14, 2018, the Maryland Office of Tourism Development – a division of the Maryland Department of Commerce – and the Maryland Tourism Development Board presented the 2018 Maryland Tourism Awards at the annual Maryland Tour & Travel Summit 2018 in Cambridge, Maryland at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay. The awards recognize excellence and major contributions in expanding the market of Maryland tourism products, maximizing opportunities to generate overnight stays, leveraging partnerships and showcasing Maryland as an exciting must-see tourism destination.

The Transactional Opportunities Award was presented to Delmarva Birding Weekends, Beach And Beyond and Somerset County Tourism for successfully creating tourism products and programming to bring in revenue. The award recognized our summer 2018 Smith Island Pelican Tours and Maryland coastal bays Sunset Seabird Safaris.

As we stated at the top, birding is big business in Maryland and across the U.S. According to 2011 figures, total in-state revenue from birding in Maryland was \$333.6 million. This figure includes \$72.1 million in trip expenditures and \$261.5 million in equipment expenditures.

In 2016, the National Survey of Fishing Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation indicated that 86 million Americans watched wildlife and spent \$75.9 billion to travel, watch, photograph and feed wildlife. This was a 20% increase from the 2011 survey!

By registering for our Sunset Seabird Safaris and Pelican Tours, our guest birders supported the economy in Worcester County, Maryland

and Somerset County, Maryland. We charter a number of boats to run these trips, we pay our guides, we book hotel rooms, and we love to eat (and drink) at local restaurants and bars. We share this award with Barbara Ann Charters, Bay Time Charters, Drum Point Market, and the skiff captains of Smith Island, Maryland.

We also share this award with those of you who bird and promote birding and wildlife conservation in Maryland, including our partners at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Wildlife & Heritage Service, the Maryland Ornithological Society, Audubon Maryland-DC, the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership, the Maryland Biodiversity Project, and so many others. Thank you for making Maryland a great state for our conservation-based business!

We are thankful for this recognition, and we are extremely thankful to those of you who go birding with us every year. Good birding and business, everyone!