For More Information

Directions
From the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, follow Route 50 East (toward
Eastern and Ocean City) for 26 miles. Turn right onto Route 322
South Travel 2 miles, turn right onto Route 33 West. Travel on Route
33 for 10 miles to St. Michaels.

Paddling Directions:
Meeting at the parking lot.

Cautions:
Be aware of tidal
changes. Winds 1-2 feet high or
higher in strong winds. Monitor
wind direction and speed. Return
trip can be against strong winds.

Remember: It is your
responsibility to
have the necessary
skills,
knowledge, and
equipment for
a safe and
environmentally
sensitive visit.

San Domingo Creek to Hambleton Island

Paddling Directions:
Public time: 1.5 hours
Paddle distance: 2.5 miles

Winds 1-2 feet high or
higher in strong winds.

Attractions:
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Items of Note:
Water Temp:
Distance Traveled:
Take Out:
Weather:
Total Time:
Boated With:
Name:

San Domingo Creek

Paddling Directions:
Public time: 2 hours
Paddle distance: 3 miles

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Paddling and Boating Safety

Always wear your life jacket when on the water. We leave your
paddling plan with a friend or loved one.

Keep your weight centered and as low as possible at all times,
especially when launching or launching. When paddling in wind,
clip any close to shoreline and paddle on the
side.

The creek ends in a pond area with a fringing marsh dominated by salt marsh
vegetation. Nearly 200 bird species frequent the Sanctuary during the year.

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Attractions:
If the major water areas, you will see
an abundance of submerged
grasses along the shoreline. The
Sanctuary is a 900 acre estate donated
in 1997 by Joan Elms Duxbury Sloan to
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**Birds of the Water Trail**

Land, water, sky – all three provide opportunities for viewing Chesapeake bird life. Windy weather should not detract from Water Trail birding because even a relaxing paddle along a sheltered shoreline can bring you close to many beautiful species. This bird list should help you hone in on the species you are most likely to see whatever the season and wherever you choose to go on the St. Michaels Water Trail. How many did you see on your trip?

**Water’s edge and sky above**

- **Forster’s Tern** (black cap, forked tail, wings frosty white above; often dives in shallows)
- **Great Black-backed Gull** (larger than Herring Gull; often on buoys in open water)
- **Herring Gull** (breeds on Poplar Island, frequents shores and harbors all year)
- **Killdeer** (common shorebird whose raucous call says its name)
- **Red-tailed Hawk** (call a wild descending scream; unbanded tail is red above)
- **Bald Eagle** (birds older than 5 years have white head and tail; wings horizontal in flight)
- **Black Vulture** (smaller and flaps more than Turkey Vulture, white patch near wing tip)
- **Turkey Vulture** (wings outspread above horizontal)
- **Red-tailed Hawk** (call with greenish-white underside, unbandable tail, red above)
- **American Kestrel** (small, forked tail, wings brown above, white below)
- **Common Grackle** (iridescent squawking blackbird; flies with long tail in a “V”)
- **European Starling** (familiar introduced species; winter birds have small spots)
- **Northern Mockingbird** (gray, wings flash white; superb mimic, repeats phrases 3 times)
- **American Robin** (the familiar red-breast of lawn and garden)
- **Eastern Bluebird** (blue in good light; reddish upper breast; smaller than Robin)
- **House Sparrow** (common in villages; males have black bib; European origin)
- **American Goldfinch** (“wild canary” yellow spring, summer; “per-chick-oree” call)
- **House Finch** (rosy-looking finch of homes and feeders; introduced from the West)
- **Northern Cardinal** (crested; males red with black face, females duller)
- **Swamp Sparrow** (fat dark sparrow of wetlands; throat whitish, brown cap)
- **Common Grackle** (iridescent squawking blackbird; flies with long tail in a “V”)
- **American Crow** (familiar “caw” call; Fish Crow sounds like it has a bad cold)
- **Brown Creeper** (small, gray, hooks tips of toes, pecks up any cracks)
- **Tufted Titmouse** (noisy but friendly little crested gray bird; associated with chickadees)
- **Carolina Chickadee** (small, with black bib and crown; “dee-dee” call)
- **Carolina Wren** (brown with white eye stripe, cocked tail; “tea-kettle” call)
- **White-breasted Nuthatch** (“toy horn” call; goes down tree trunks head-first)
- **Blue Jay** (our raucous blue bird with a crest and face edged in black)
- **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (extensive red on head, black-and-white “ladder back”)
- **Mourning Dove** (brown, with pointed tail; wings that whistle on takeoff)
- **Northern Flicker** (larger than a Robin; often seen on ground; black “V” on chest)
- **Brown Creeper** (small, gray, hooks tips of toes, pecks up any cracks)
- **Red-tailed Hawk** (call with greenish-white underside, unbandable tail, red above)
- **Golden Plover** (small, dark, feet yellow; often seen on sandbars)
- **Northern Mockingbird** (gray, wings flash white; superb mimic, repeats phrases 3 times)
- **Brown Thrasher** (noisy southern bird; tail flickers)
- **Red-tailed Hawk** (call with greenish-white underside, unbandable tail, red above)
- **Barn Owl** (large, grey-faced, white underside; often seen perched in trees)
- **Northern Cardinal** (crested; males red with black face, females duller)
- **Northern Mockingbird** (gray, wings flash white; superb mimic, repeats phrases 3 times)
- **American Robin** (the familiar red-breast of lawn and garden)
- **Dark-eyed Junco** (gray, white underside; often seen on lawns and porches)
- **Great Blue Heron** (long-legged sovereign of the Chesapeake)
- **Mallard** (most common duck; males have green head and white neck ring; quacks)
- **Mute Swan** (graceful arched back, orange bill; can be aggressive; not a native species)
- **Canada Goose** (migratory populations in winter, non-migratory in summer)
- **Western Grebe** (wrinkled head, long legs, white bill, black back and white head and neck)
- **Wilson’s Phalarope** (white body, red legs, dark cap, black cheek stripe, red eye)
- **Wilson’s Phalarope** (white body, red legs, dark cap, black cheek stripe, red eye)
- **Ruddy Turnstone** (yellow head and black back; often in flocks)
- **Sandhill Crane** (large, gray, pink legs, striped head)
- **American White Pelican** (large, white, long neck; often seen on Med)