



"The Salt Marshes of Dorchester County", Pickering Creek Audubon Center, 6 February 2013

Through lectures, hands-on experiences, restoration projects and storytelling, the Pickering Creek Audubon Center is encouraging Dorchester County citizens to take pride in, and act to restore and preserve the salt marshes of Dorchester County.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The Atlantic Fly way's coastal habitats, including Dorchester County, contain 1/8th of the world's salt marshes and offer a spectacular array of biodiversity. These unique habitats provide vital stop over, feeding and nesting areas to many at-risk species. Critical to all of us, these salty marshes provide a first line of defense against rising sea levels and increased storm damage. Fishing, recreation and tourism makes the economical impact of salt marshes especially important in Dorchester County.

A little known fact is that Dorchester County has one of the largest contiguous areas of tidal marsh in the northeastern United States. The vast expanses of both brackish and salt marsh in Dorchester County provide significant essential habitat for many species including Black Rail, Willet, Seaside Sparrow and Saltmarsh Sparrow.

Dorchester County and the people living here have great stories to tell about the role salt marshes have played in their lives and their families' lives for centuries. The remote marshes of the Lower Shore of the Chesapeake are known to few, and yet their local, regional and even global impact is immense.



Eagle Family on Eagle Cam

USFWS