

Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS)

Field Trip: Saturday, March 10, 2012

Trip Leader: Schwarz, Kurt

Date of Trip: Saturday, March 10, 2012

Location: Howard Waterfowl Search

Details: Half day (but some pushed on). Clear, breezy, temperatures in the low 30s at start, rising to mid-40s.

Number on trip: 16

- Canada Goose: 57
- Mallard: 29
- Northern Shoveler: 2
- Ring-necked Duck: 13
- Lesser Scaup: 2
- Bufflehead: 2
- Hooded Merganser: 4
- Common Merganser: 7
- Red-breasted Merganser:
- Pied-billed Grebe: 9
- Horned Grebe: 2
- Double-crested Cormorant: 1
- Great Blue Heron: 1
- Black Vulture: 3
- Turkey Vulture: 8
- Bald Eagle: 2
- Cooper's Hawk: 1
- Red-tailed Hawk: 2
- Red-shouldered Hawk: 1
- American Coot: 1
- Ring-billed Gull: 21-35
- Belted Kingfisher: 1
- Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1
- Eastern Phoebe: 1
- Blue Jay: 5
- American Crow: 3
- Fish Crow: 7
- Carolina Chickadee: 1
- Tufted Titmouse: 10
- Carolina Wren: 1
- American Robin: 11
- Northern Mockingbird: 2
- Cedar Waxwing: 17
- Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1
- Song Sparrow: 3
- White-throated Sparrow: 13
- Northern Cardinal: 7
- Red-winged Blackbird: 2
- House Finch: 4
- House Sparrow: 4

Comments: Nice clear day dawned, with some participants from as far afield as Frederick and even West Virginia. A breeze for most of the day put a noticeable edge to the cold, which made the early part of the trip somewhat uncomfortable for some. Highlights were extremely good looks at the only Red-breasted Merganser, a nice male, of which several were able to get excellent photographs. A pair of Northern Shovelers also provided good looks and photos. An immature Bald Eagle at Big Branch in a very unusual white-bellied plumage provided for an interesting study of little-seen plumage. Pre-trip check for the Sandhill Cranes near Elkhorn came up dry, and a foray after touring some other HowCo rarities with the out-of-towners likewise failed to locate them.