

Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS)

Field Trip: Saturday, May 26, 2012 Hot Spots for Red Knots

Trip Leader: Kurt Schwarz

Date of Trip: Saturday, May 25, 2012

Location: Hot Spots for Red Knots

Number: 9

Details: Joint with Montgomery County Bird Club. All day.

Birds:

- Canada Goose - 68
- Tundra Swan - 1
- Mallard - 6
- American Black Duck - 2
- Lesser Scaup - 1
- Double-crested Cormorant - 19
- Great Blue Heron - 12
- Great Egret - 12
- Snowy Egret - 19
- Black-crowned Night Heron - 3
- Yellow-crowned Night Heron - 1
- Glossy Ibis - 9
- Black Vulture - 1
- Turkey Vulture - 13
- Bald Eagle - 1
- Osprey - 5
- Clapper Rail - 8
- Black-bellied Plover - 163
- Semipalmated Plover - 154
- Black-necked Stilt - 4
- American Oystercatcher - 1
- Willet (Eastern) - 15
- Ruddy Turnstone - 676
- Red Knot - 8
- Sanderling - 7
- Semiplamated Sandpiper - 10,700
- Dunlin - 11
- Short-billed Dowitcher - 91
- **Sabine's Gull - 1**
- Laughing Gull - 30
- Ring-billed Gull - 25
- Herring Gull - 11
- Great Black-backed Gull - 22
- Least Tern - 3
- Common Tern - 3
- Willow Flycatcher - 2
- Eastern Phoebe - 1
- Great Crested Flycatcher - 1
- Eastern Kingbird - 4
- White-eyed Vireo - 2
- Red-eyed Vireo - 3
- Blue Jay - 1
- American Crow - 1
- Horned Lark - 1
- Purple Martin - 86
- Tree Swallow - 4
- Barn Swallow - 16
- Tufted Titmouse - 1
- Carolina Wren - 1
- House Wren - 14
- Marsh Wren - 14
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 1
- Wood Thrush - 1
- American Robin - 5
- Northern Mockingbird - 1
- European Starling - 12
- Cedar Waxwing - 5
- Ovenbird - 1
- Common Yellowthroat - 13
- Yellow Warbler - 4
- Blackpoll Warbler - 2
- Prairie Warbler - 2
- Eastern Towhee - 1
- Grasshopper Sparrow - 2
- Seaside Sparrow - 1
- Scarlet Tanager - 1
- Northern Cardinal - 1
- Blue Grosbeak - 1
- Indigo Bunting - 6
- Red-winged Blackbird - 67

- Forster's Tern - 52
- Royal Tern - 5
- Black Skimmer - 165
- Mourning Dove - 3
- Chimney Swift - 2
- Northern Flicker -2

- Common Grackle - 8
- Boat-tailed Grackle - 6
- Brown-headed Cowbird - 1
- Orchard Oriole - 3
- House Sparrow -5

Remarks: 8:30 rendezvous with the MontCo contingent and Bill Stewart, DelMarVa Ornithological Society Conservation Chair at Prime Hook NWR Visitor Center. Singing Grasshopper Sparrows were a highlight at the Visitor Center. Since Broadkill Impoundment has proven to be unproductive for the past 3 trips, and nothing notable had been reported there for the week previous, we headed directly for Fowler Beach. Fowler had well over one hundred Black Skimmers, and also provided views of Clapper Rails parading around in the open. Plus Least Terns and lots of shorebirds, but no Red Knots. The next stop was Slaughter Beach, which also had numerous shorebirds, but no Red Knots. It was a short trip to DuPont Nature Center, which we were all anxious to reach since it had been hosting an adult Sabine's Gull in alternate/breeding plumage for almost a week, as well as an Iceland Gull. Neither gull was evident when we first arrived, but we finally did find some Red Knots (only 8). A unusually late male Lesser Scaup was present. The Sabine's Gull finally appeared after about an hour's wait. We took a longer drive to Bombay Hook NWR, where the most notable bird was a Tundra Swan. The swan and the scaup were both believed to be injured, and hence lingering. The last stop was Woodland Beach Wildlife Area/Taylor's Gut, which was pretty lackluster. Overall, the shorebirds seemed a bit thin and Red Knots few. But everyone was delighted with the Sabine's Gull, which was a lifer for most, and at least a state bird for everyone else.