

# Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS)

## Field Trip: Patapsco Scrubland

**Trip Leader:** Felicia Lovelett

**Date of Trip:** Saturday, May 30, 2015

**Location:** Patapsco Scrubland

**Details:** 7:35 AM - 10:20 AM. Humid, part sun, 69-79F, wind 2-5 mph (gusts to 12)

**Number on trip:** 6

- Great Blue Heron 1
- Black Vulture 6
- Turkey Vulture 6
- Red-shouldered Hawk 4
- Mourning Dove 3
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1
- Chimney Swift 4
- Red-bellied Woodpecker 1
- Downy Woodpecker 1
- Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted) 2
- Pileated Woodpecker 1
- Eastern Wood-Pewee 4
- Acadian Flycatcher 2
- Eastern Phoebe 2
- Great Crested Flycatcher 4
- White-eyed Vireo 3
- Yellow-throated Vireo 1
- Red-eyed Vireo 4
- Blue Jay 3
- American Crow 12
- Tree Swallow 10
- Barn Swallow 5
- Carolina Chickadee 1
- Tufted Titmouse 2
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 3
- Eastern Bluebird 7
- American Robin 2
- Gray Catbird 10
- Brown Thrasher 1
- Northern Mockingbird 5
- European Starling 3
- Cedar Waxwing 6
- Ovenbird 1
- Louisiana Waterthrush 1
- Northern Parula 3
- Prairie Warbler 5
- Eastern Towhee 2
- Chipping Sparrow 8
- Field Sparrow 2
- Scarlet Tanager 3
- Northern Cardinal 17
- Indigo Bunting 7
- Brown-headed Cowbird 8
- Baltimore Oriole 2
- House Finch 4
- American Goldfinch 9
- House Sparrow 1

**Remarks:** Most of the rarer habitat specialists were absent this year—this is to be expected as the successional habitat matures. More troubling was the absence of a number of common expected species: Carolina Wren (low numbers all Spring), House Wren (none thus far), Yellow Warbler (no evidence of resident breeding birds), Orchard Oriole (low numbers all Spring). The Barn Swallow colony is 1/3 its usual size and the Cliff Swallow colony on the 32 Bridge is also quite small this year. Hopefully these numbers reflect unusual weather conditions rather than permanent population

losses for all these birds. Only time will tell...